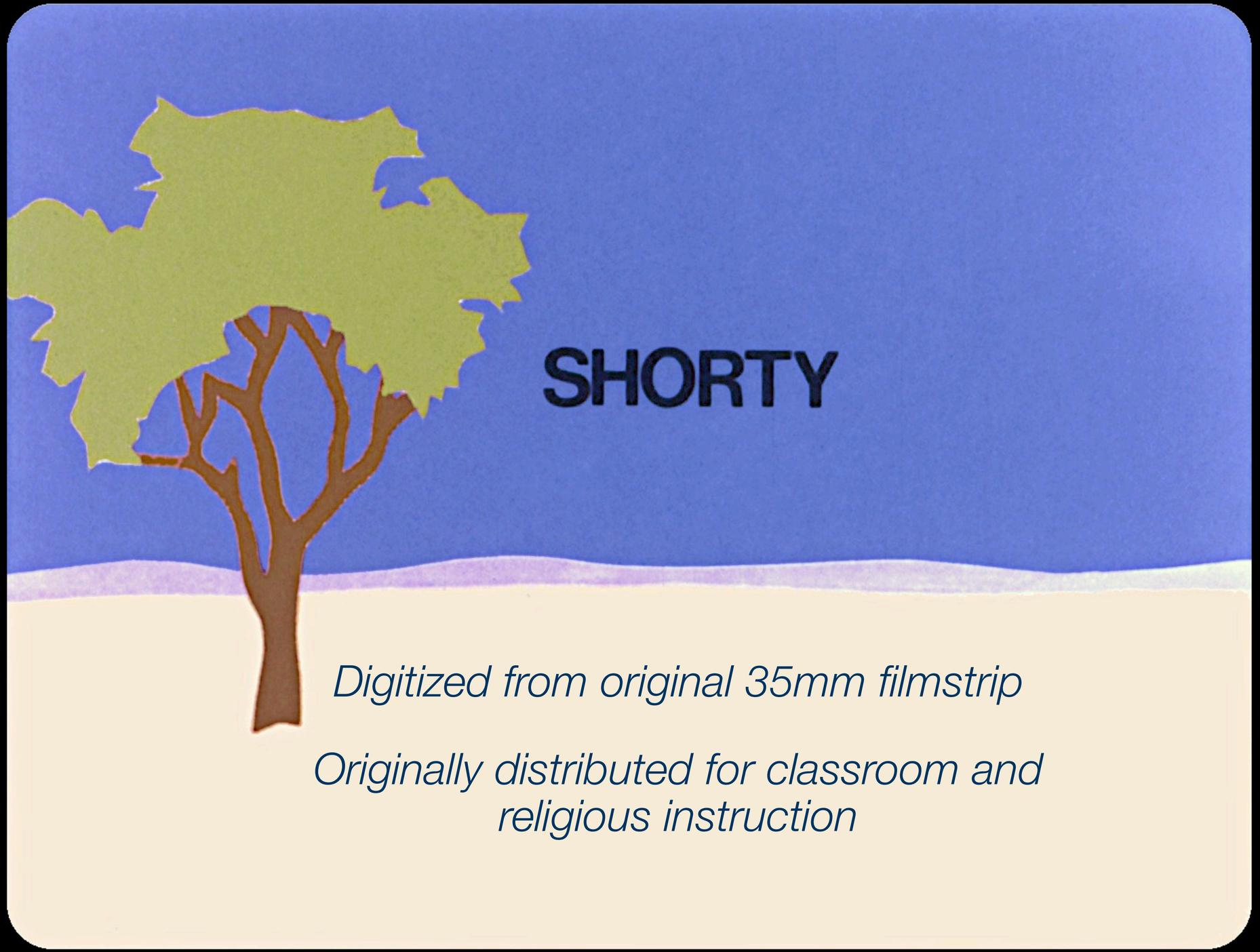
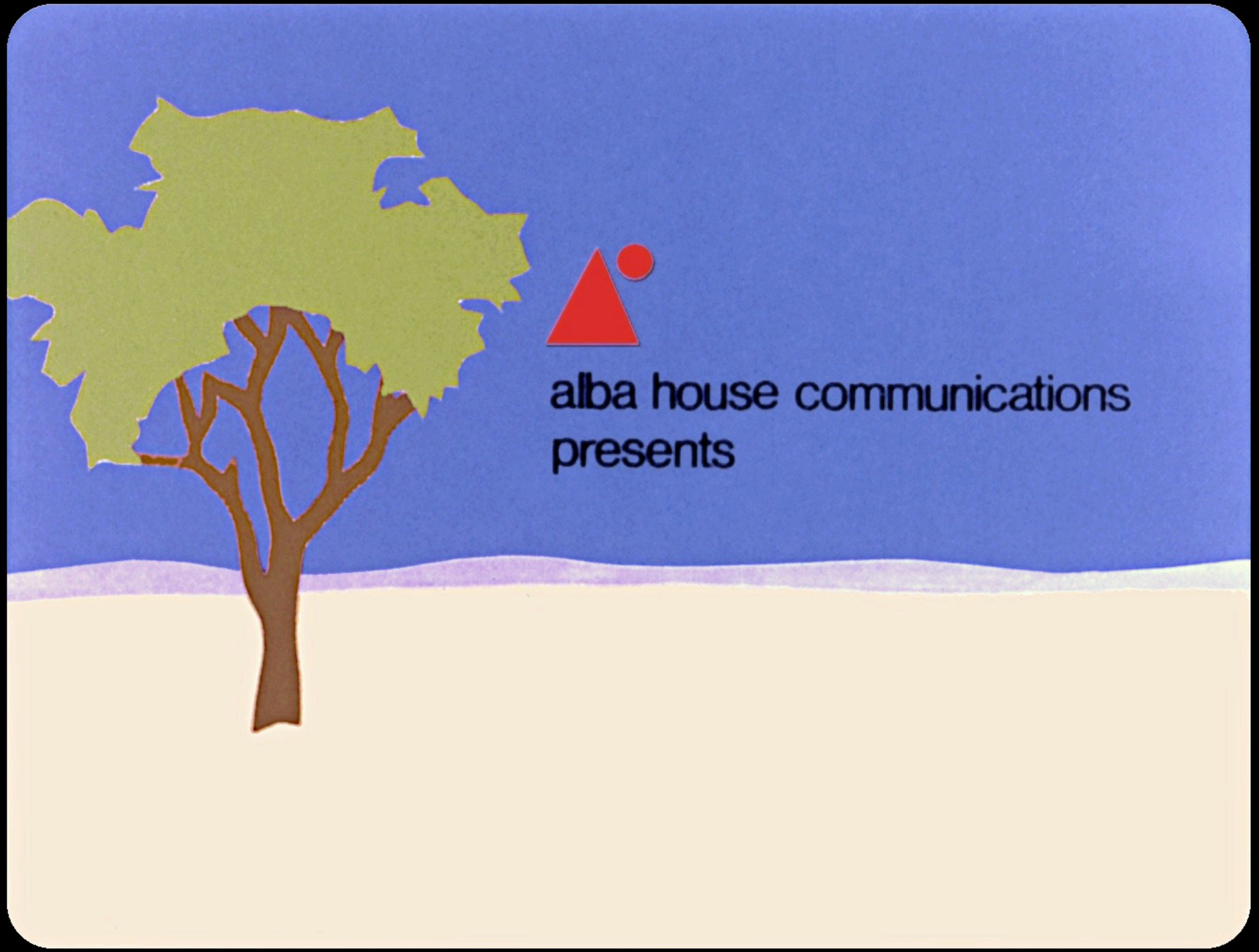
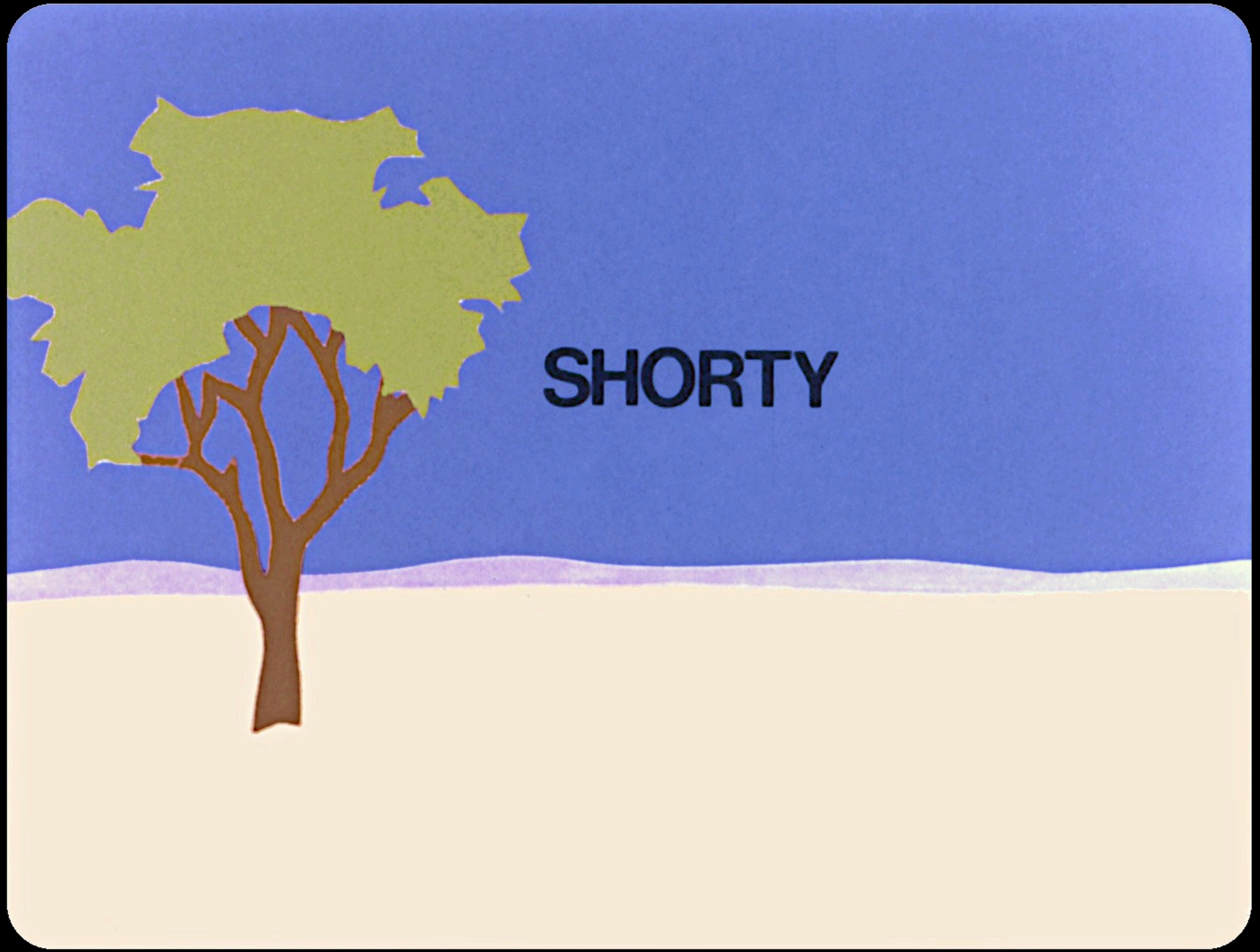


Digitized from original 35mm filmstrip

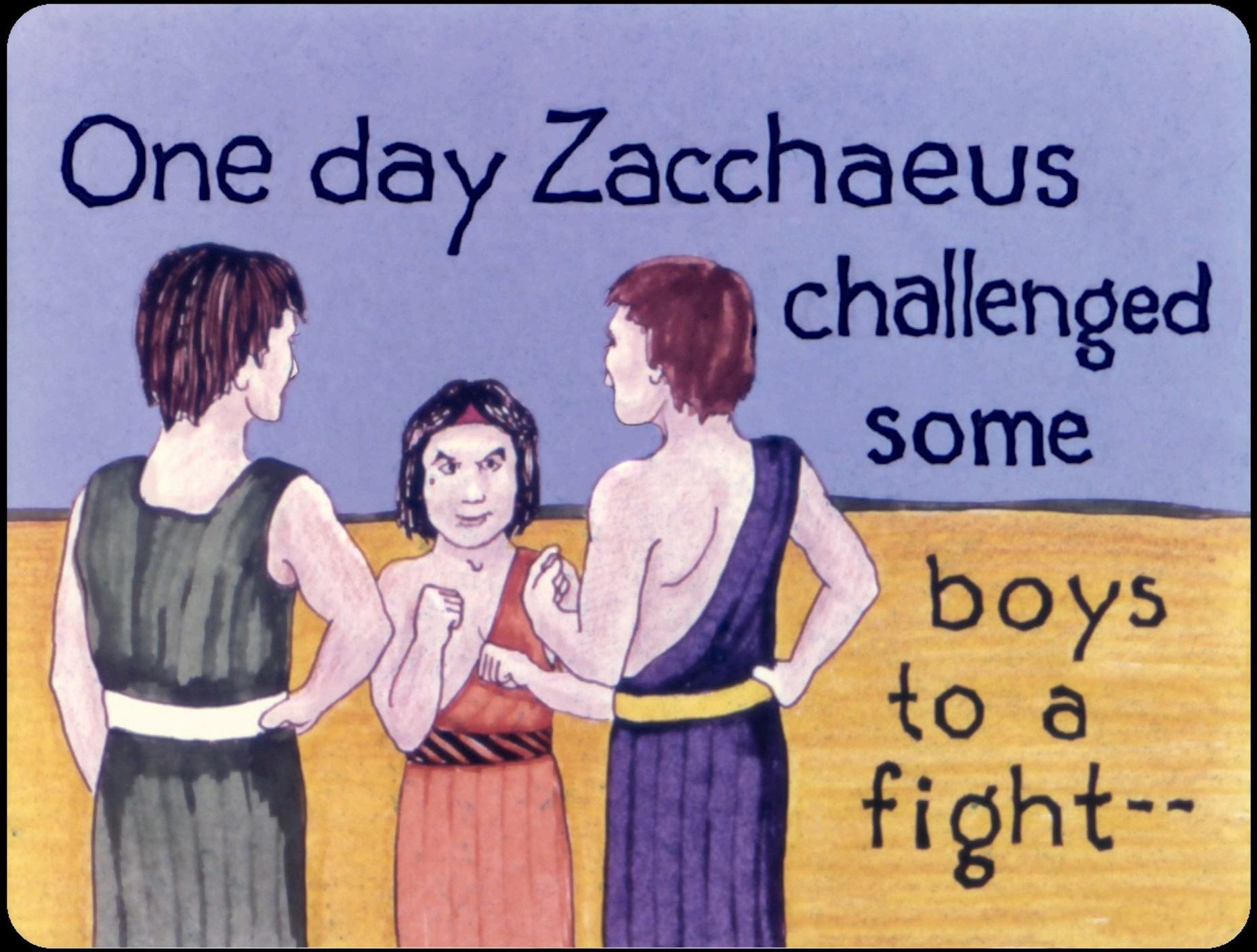
Originally distributed for classroom and religious instruction


alba house communications
presents


SHORTY

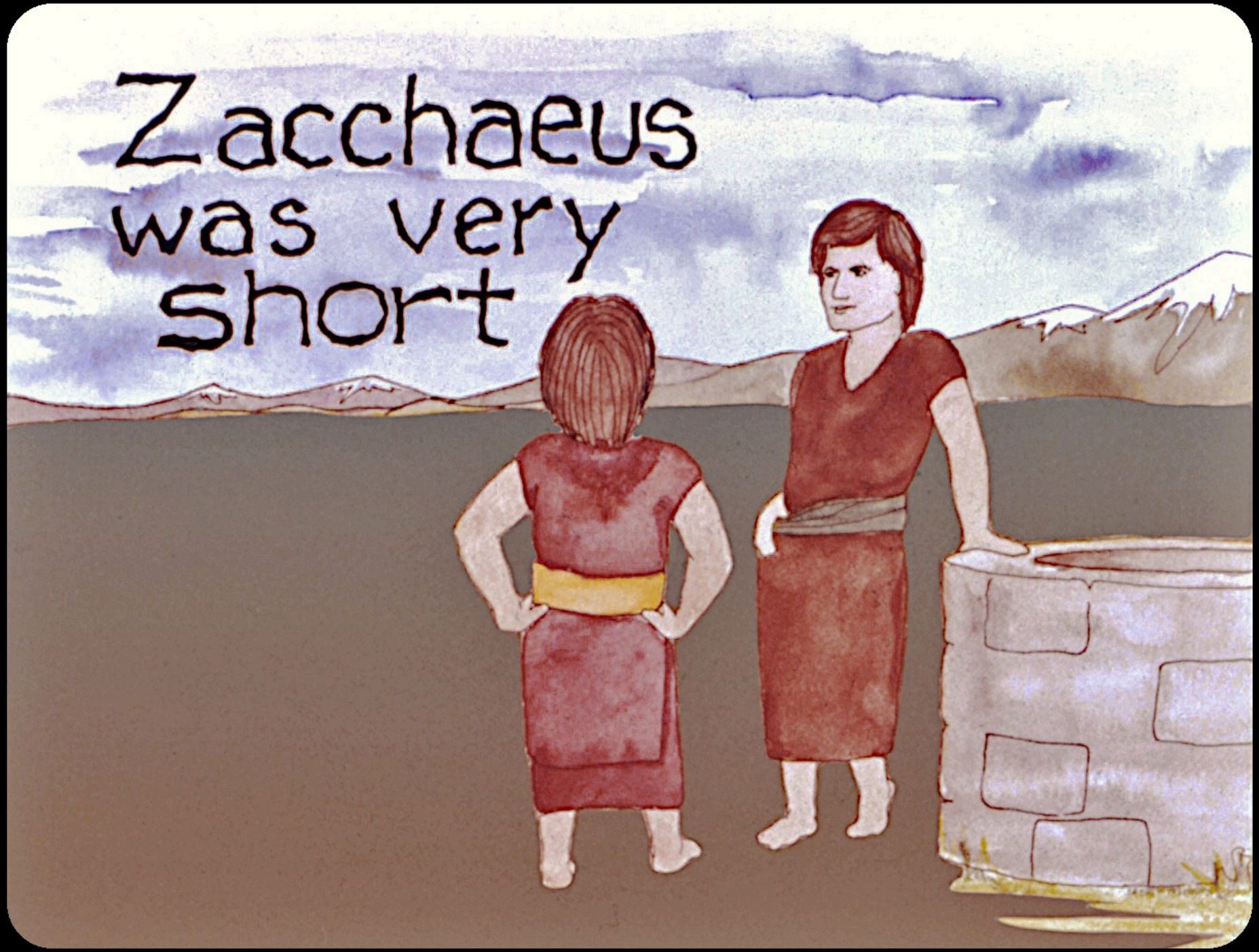
The Story of Zacchæus the Tax Collector

Luke 19:1-10

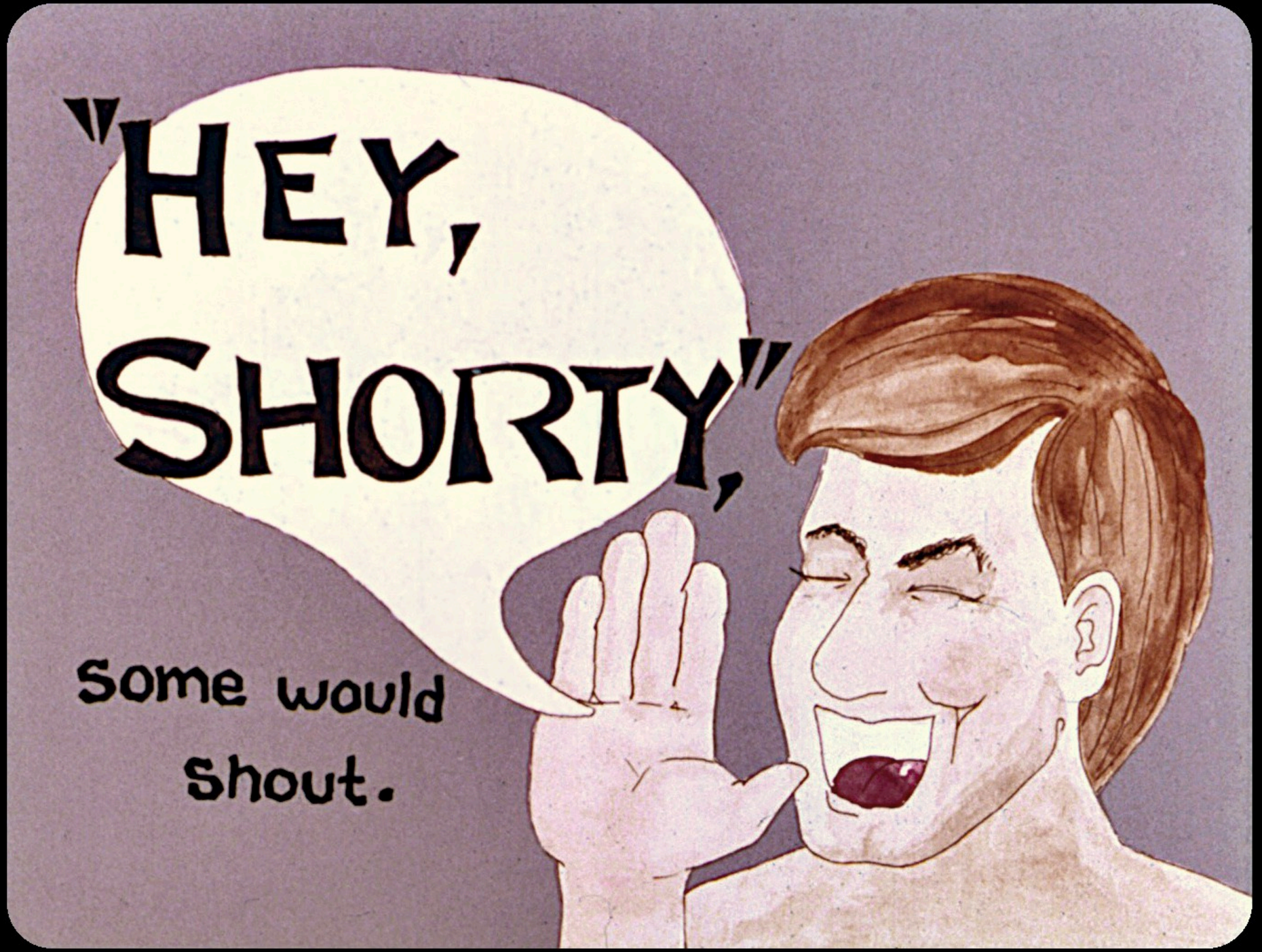

One day Zacchaeus challenged some boys to a fight--

and
lost.

He went
home and
dreamed
big
dreams.

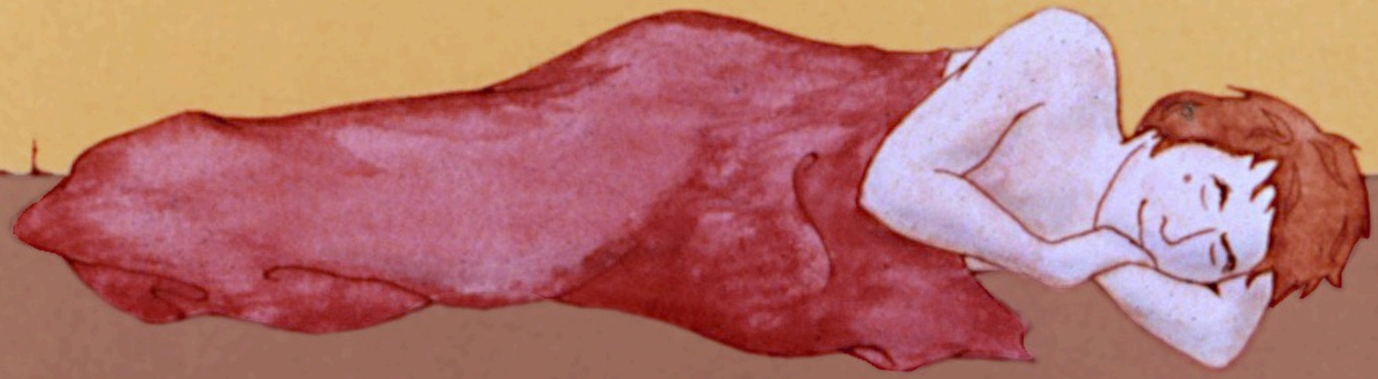

Zacchaeus
was very
short

and he couldn't just handle all the teasing


"HEY, SHORTY,"
Some would shout.

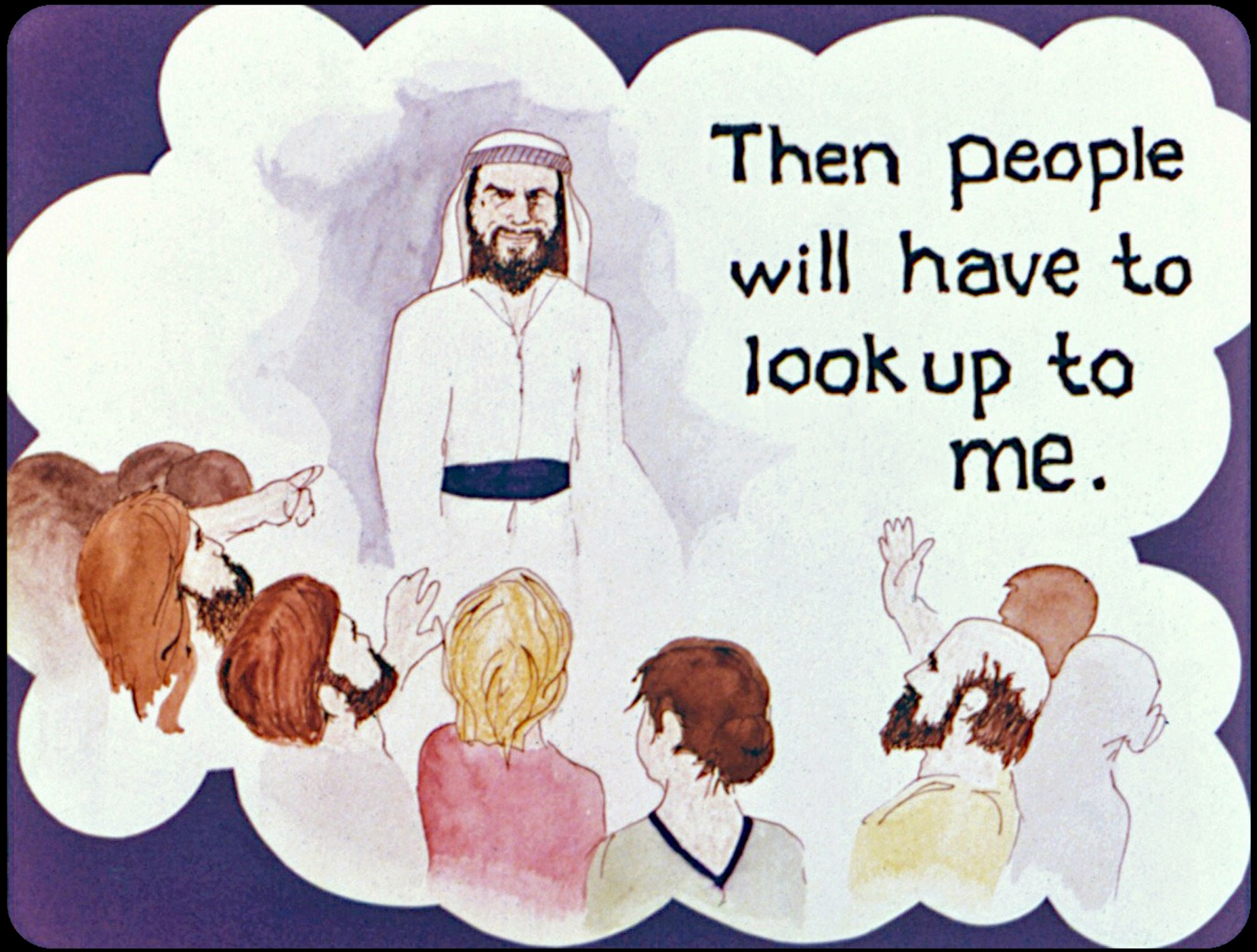
"When are you going to GROW UP?"

At home alone
he dreamed-

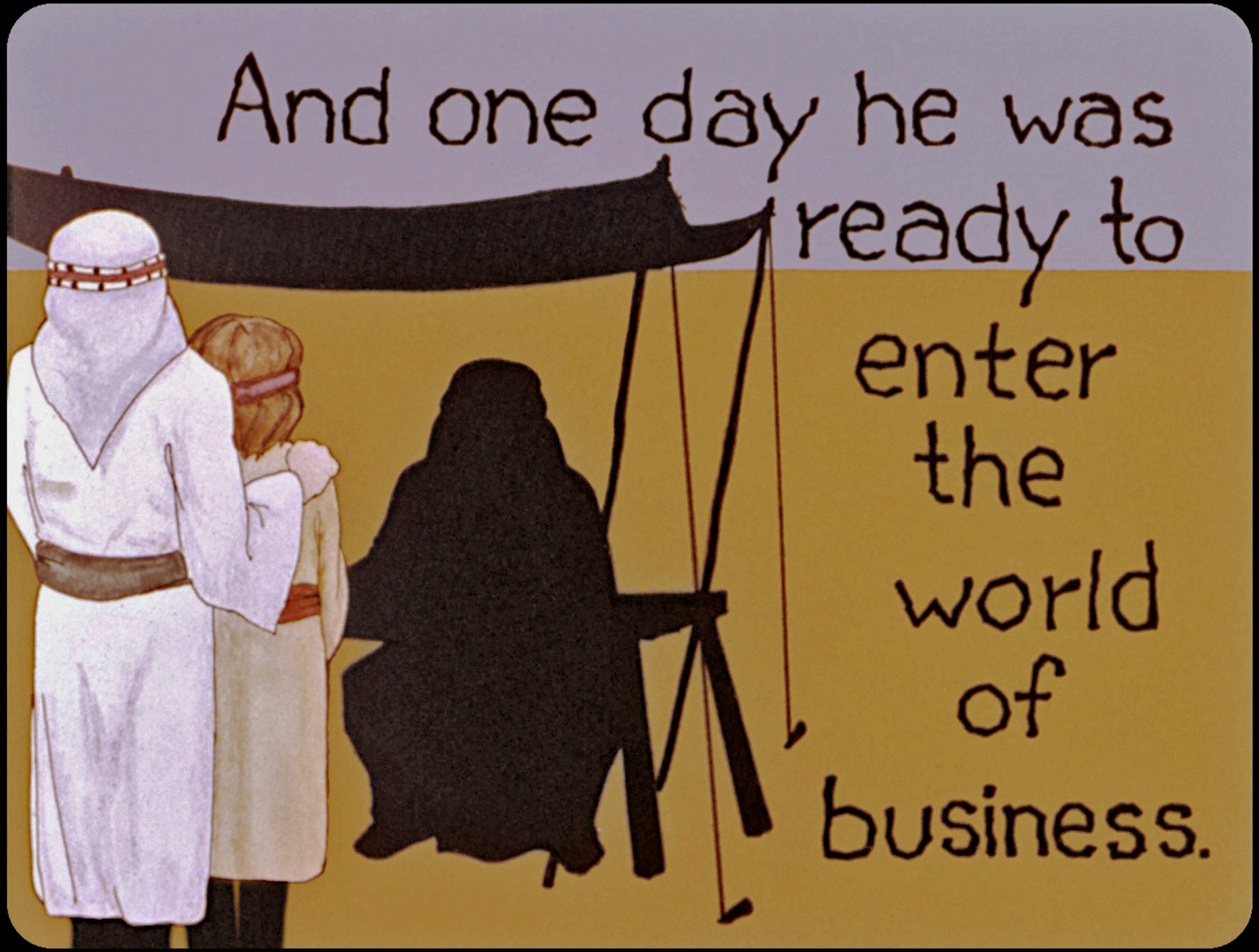


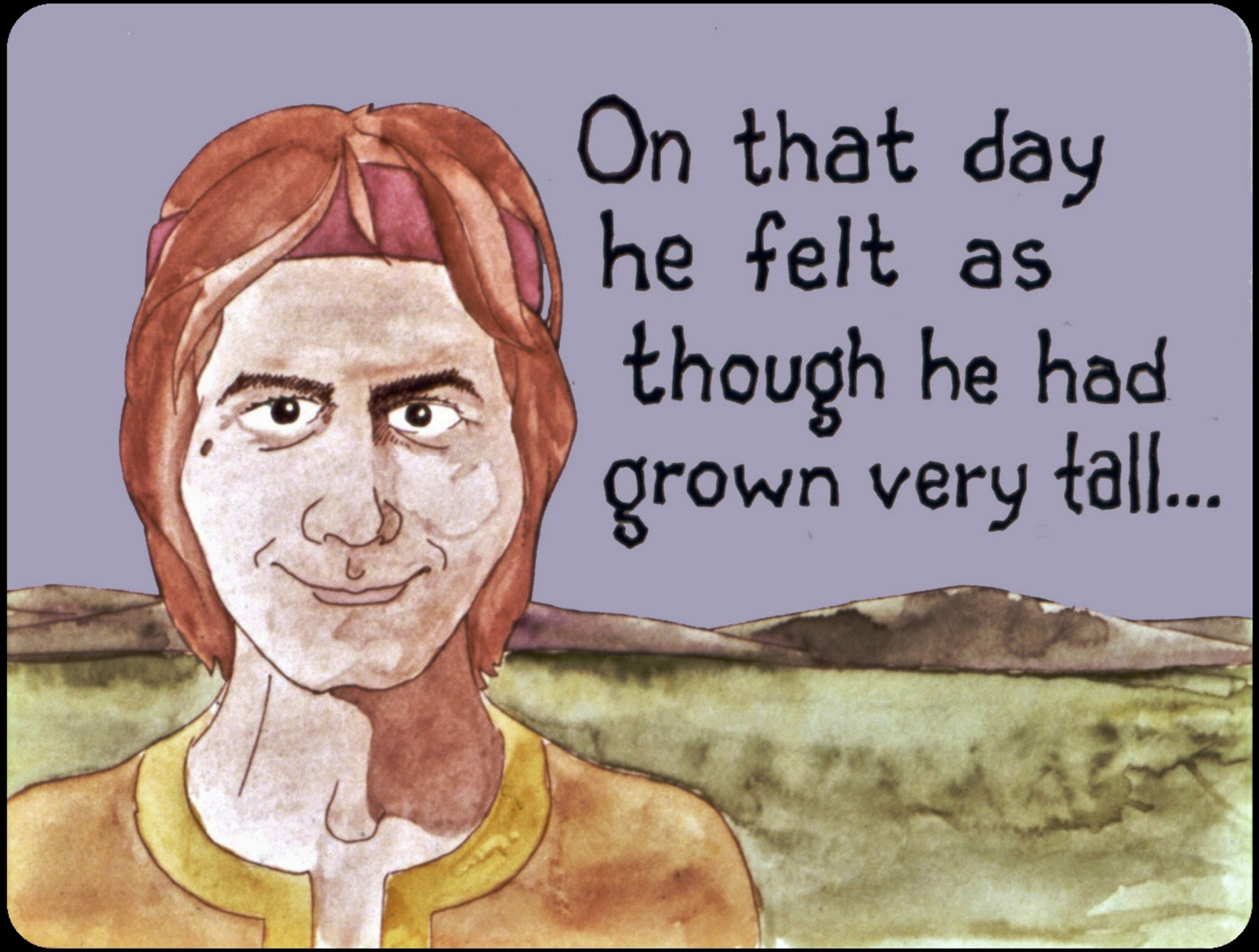
a big, big dream.

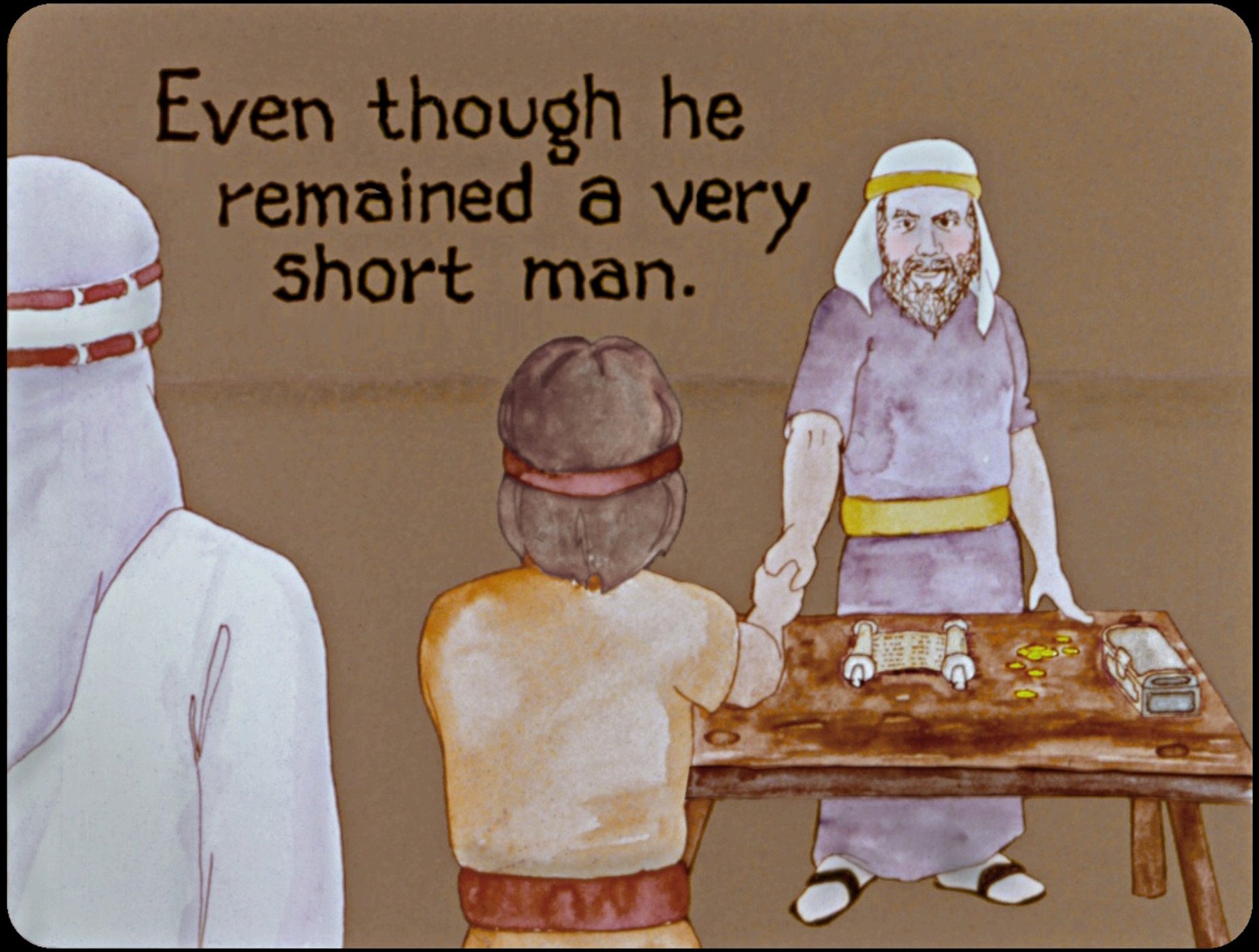
Someday I'll work
for the Romans.

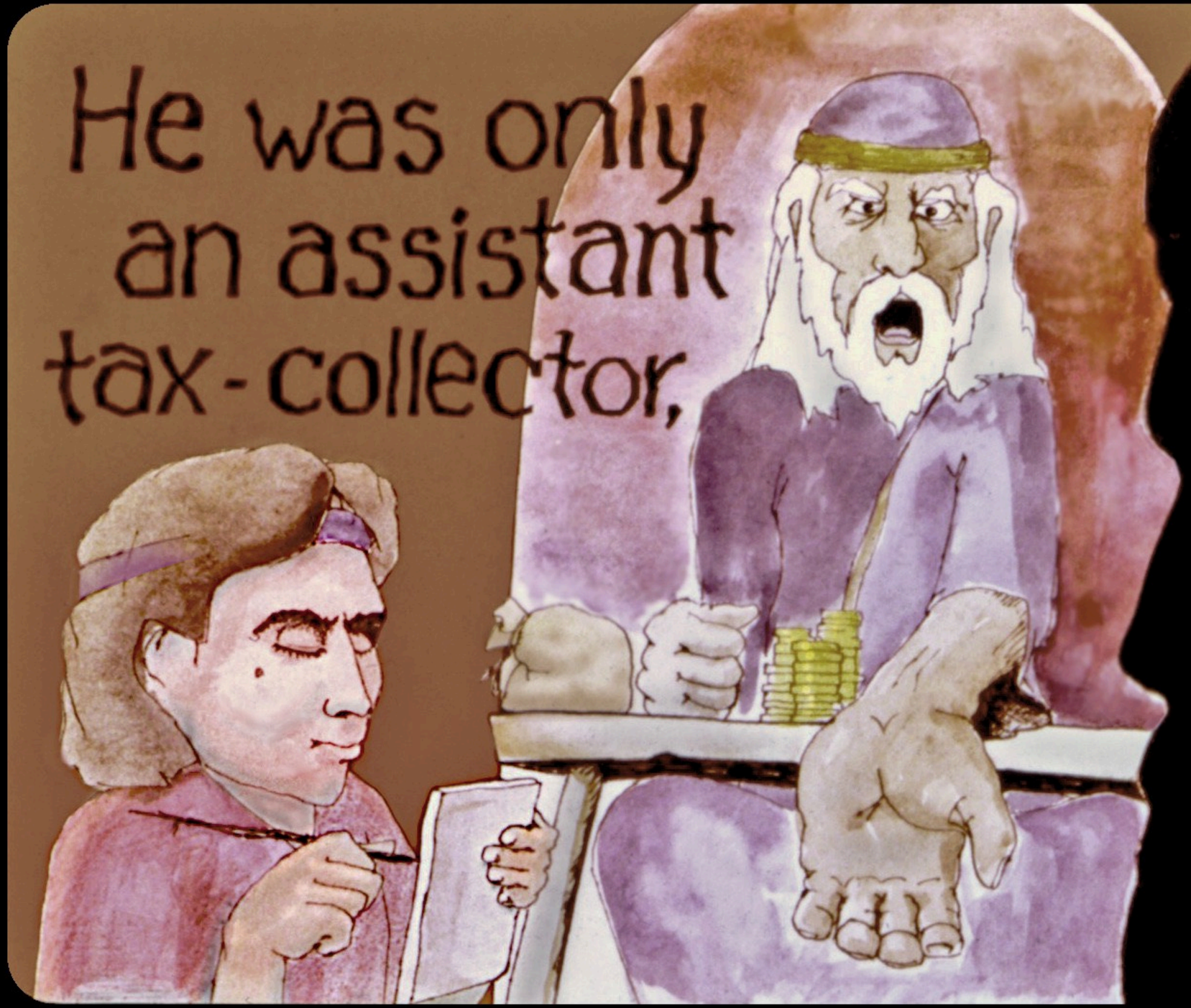

Then people will have to look up to me.

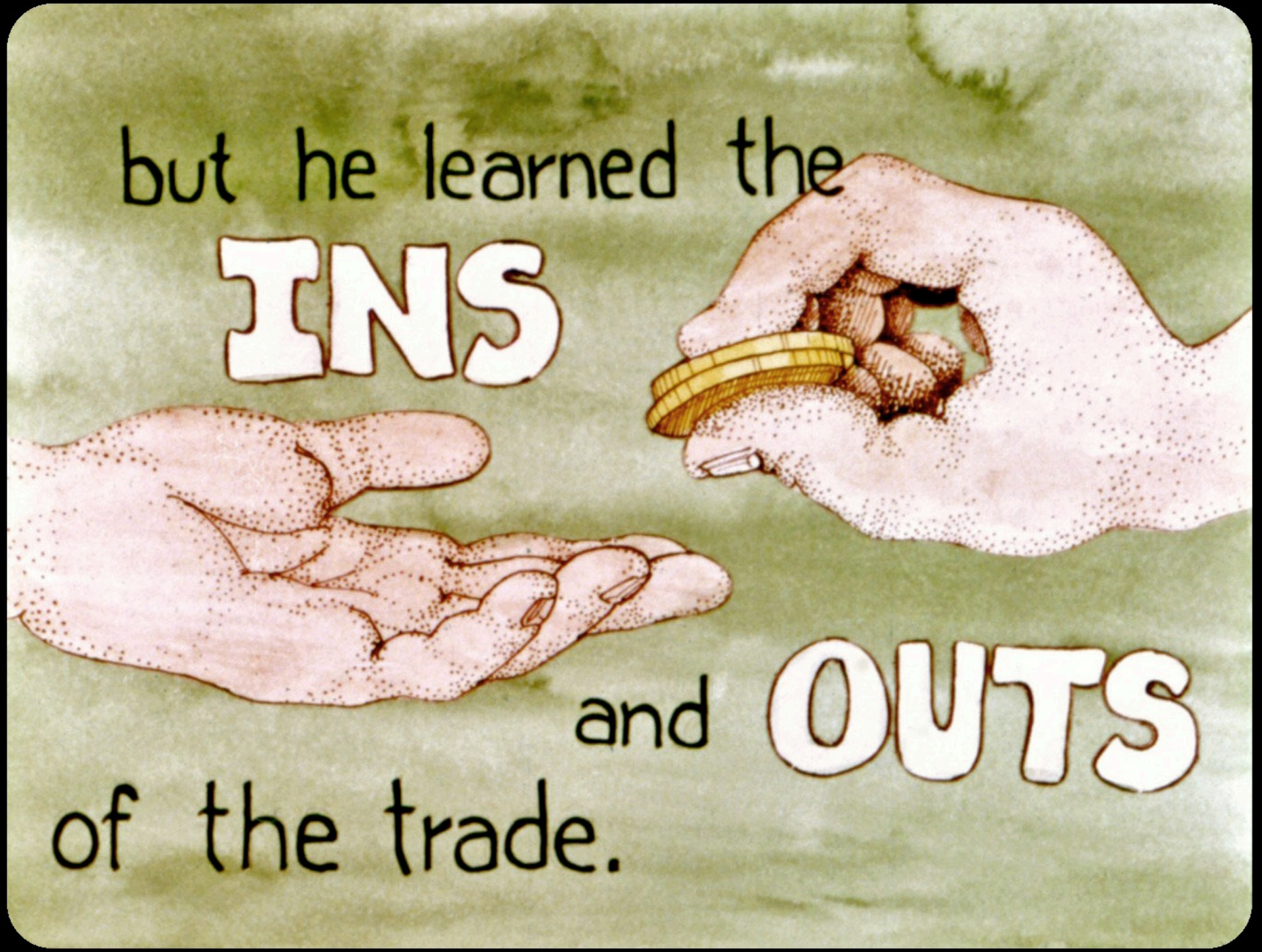
And so his dream
went, year
after year...


And one day he was ready to enter the world of business.

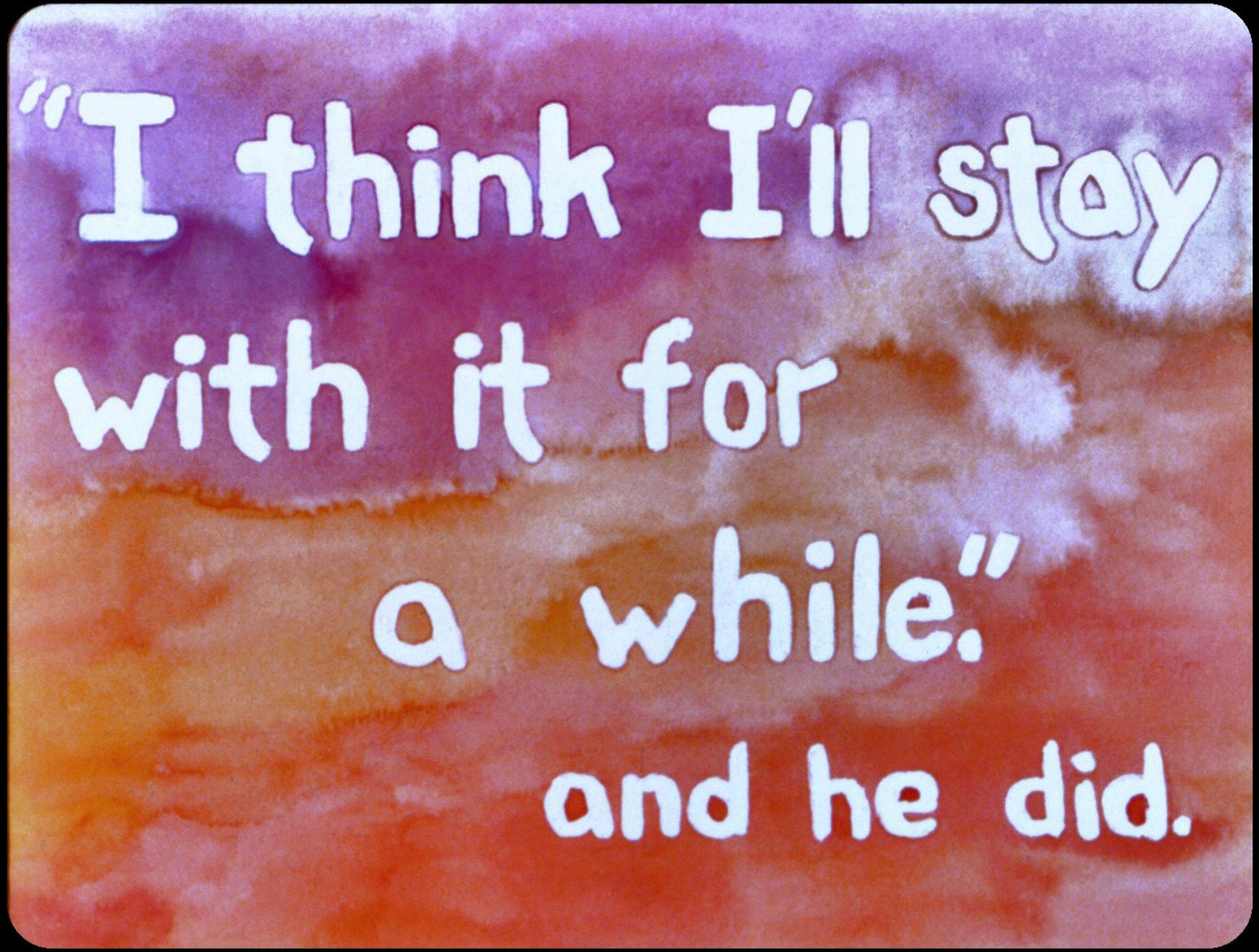

On that day
he felt as
though he had
grown very tall...


Even though he remained a very short man.


He was only
an assistant
tax-collector,


but he learned the
INS
and OUTS
of the trade.

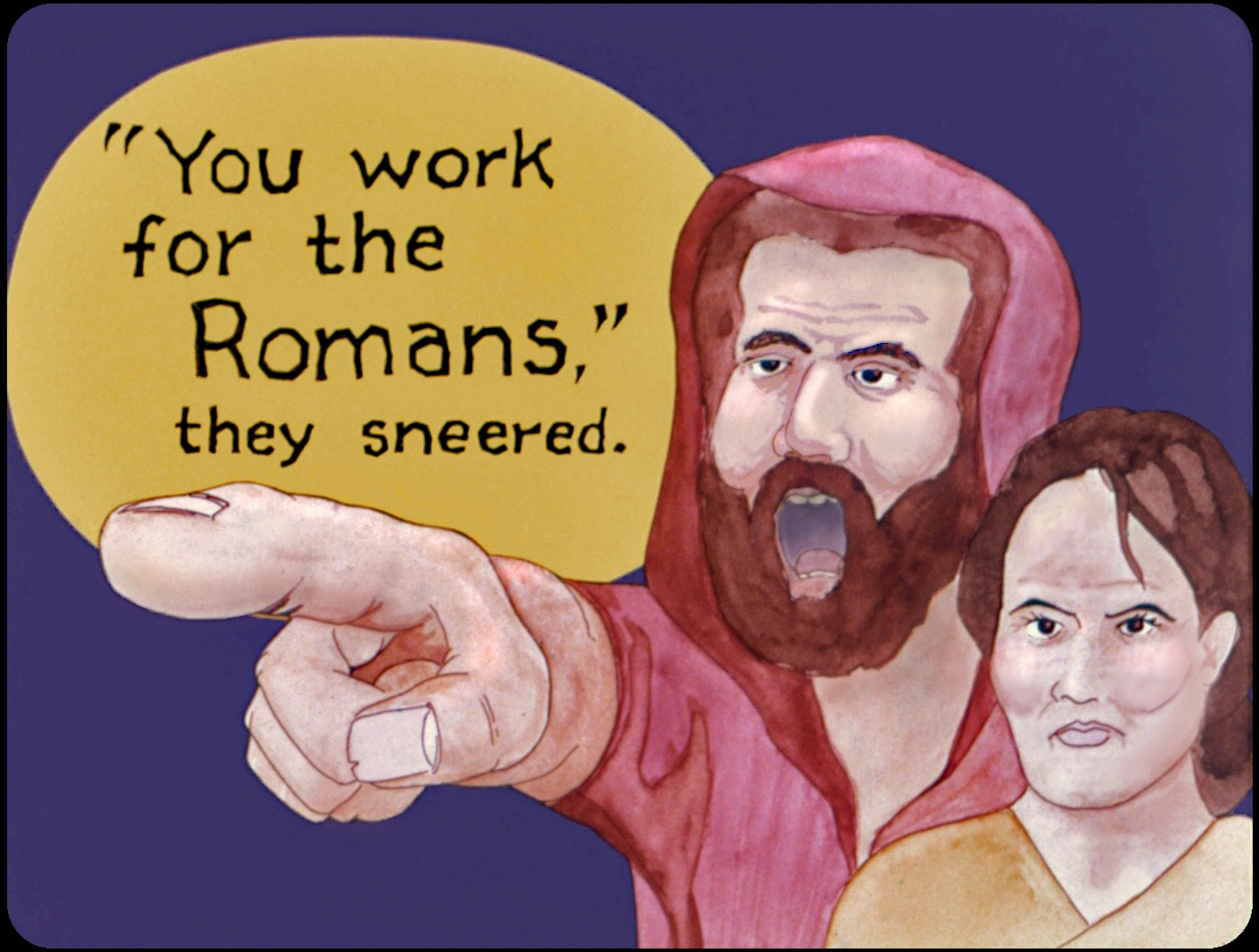
"It's easy to become rich and important in this job,"
he thought

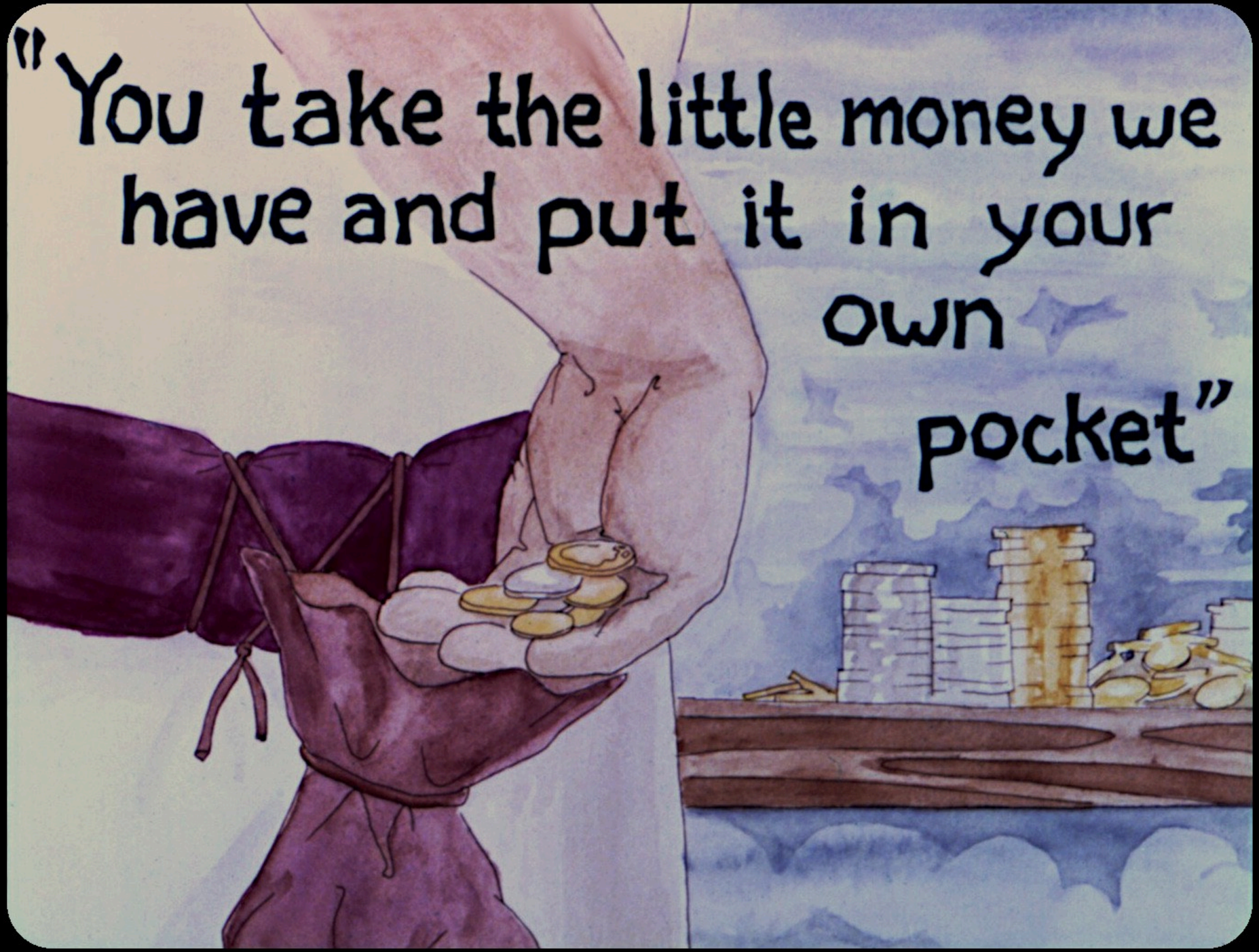

"I think I'll stay
with it for
a while."
and he did.

Until he became
the Chief tax
collector
of Jericho

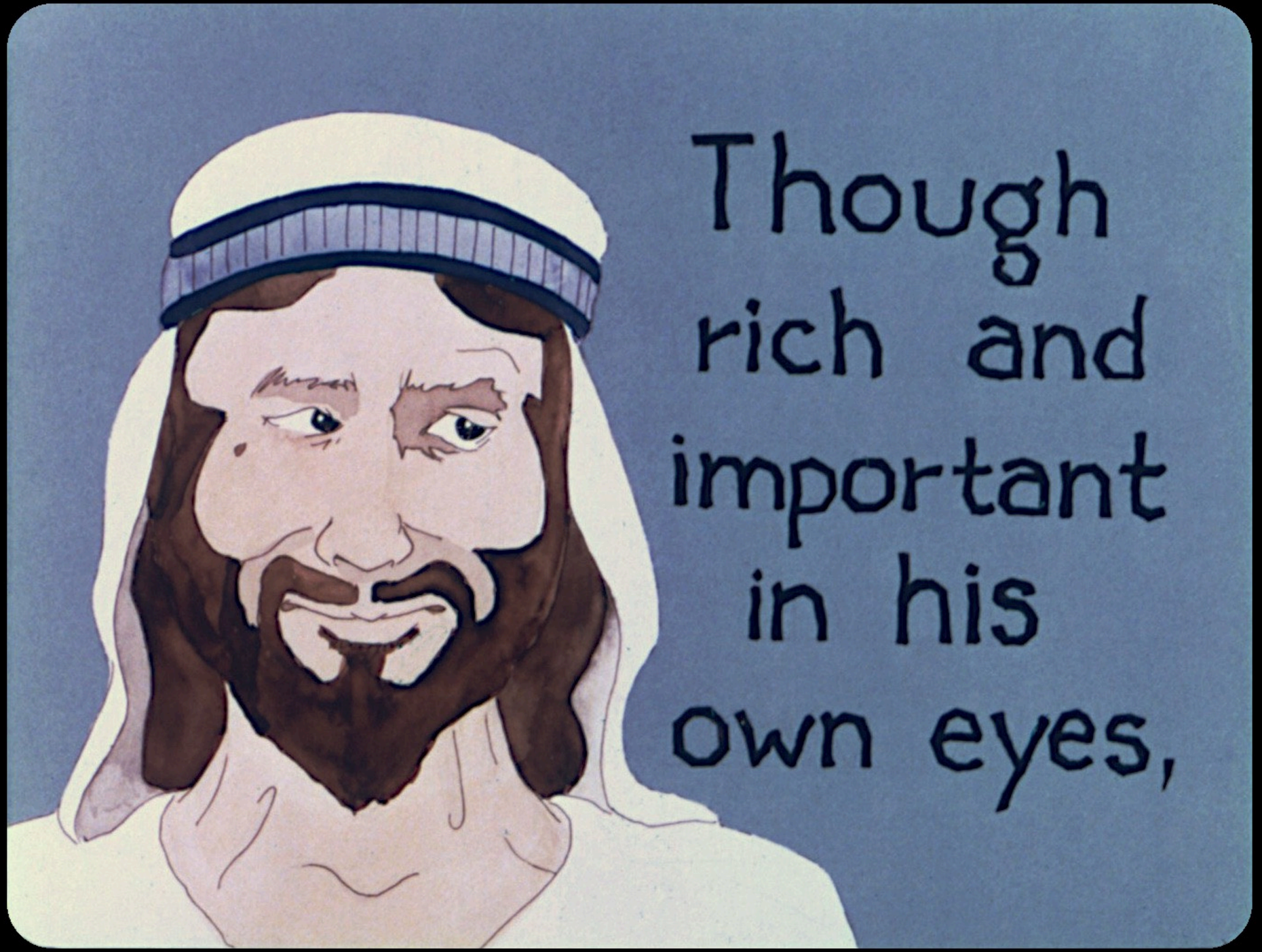
So it was that Zacchaeus
grew rich and important.

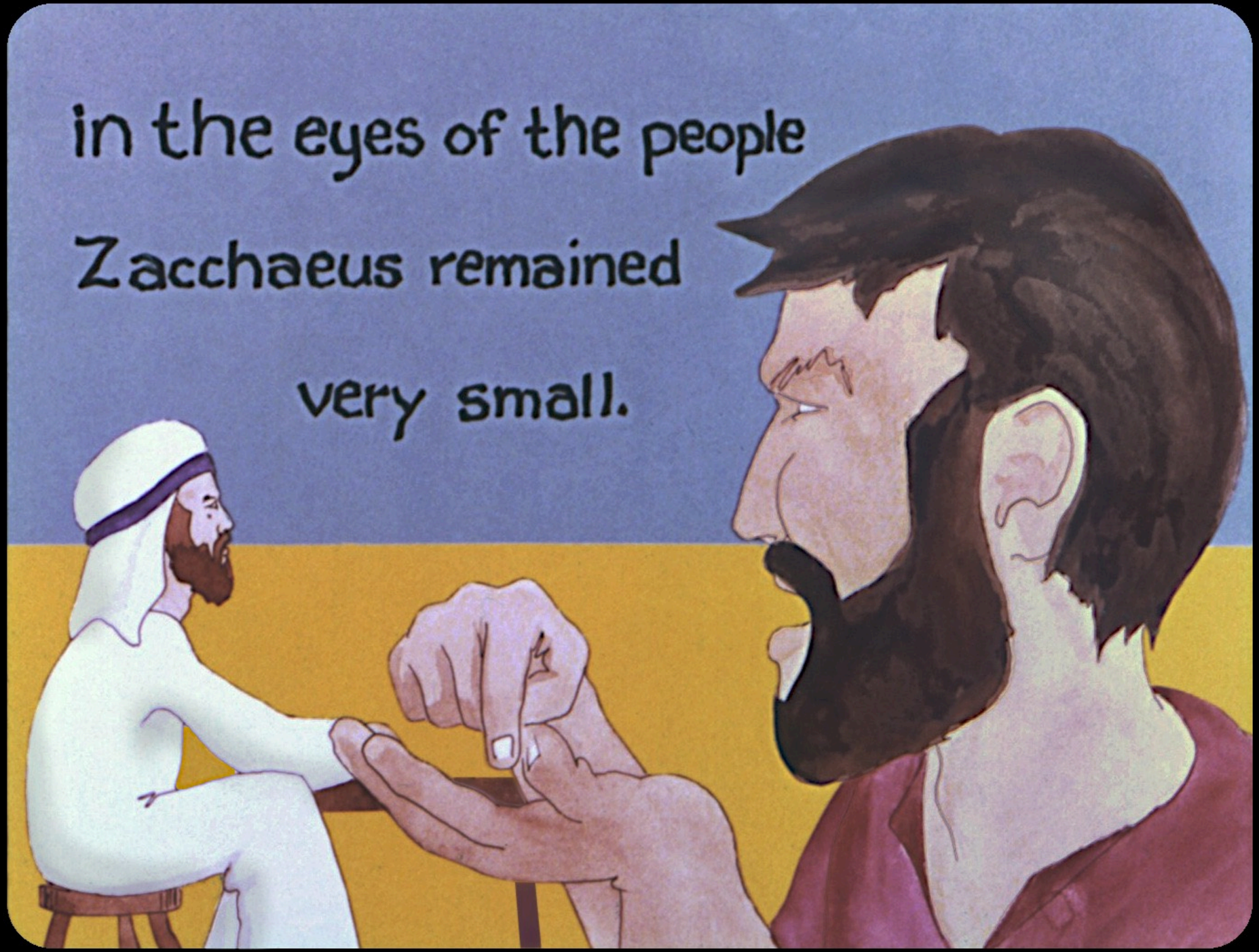
But people continued to look down on him


"You work for the Romans," they sneered.

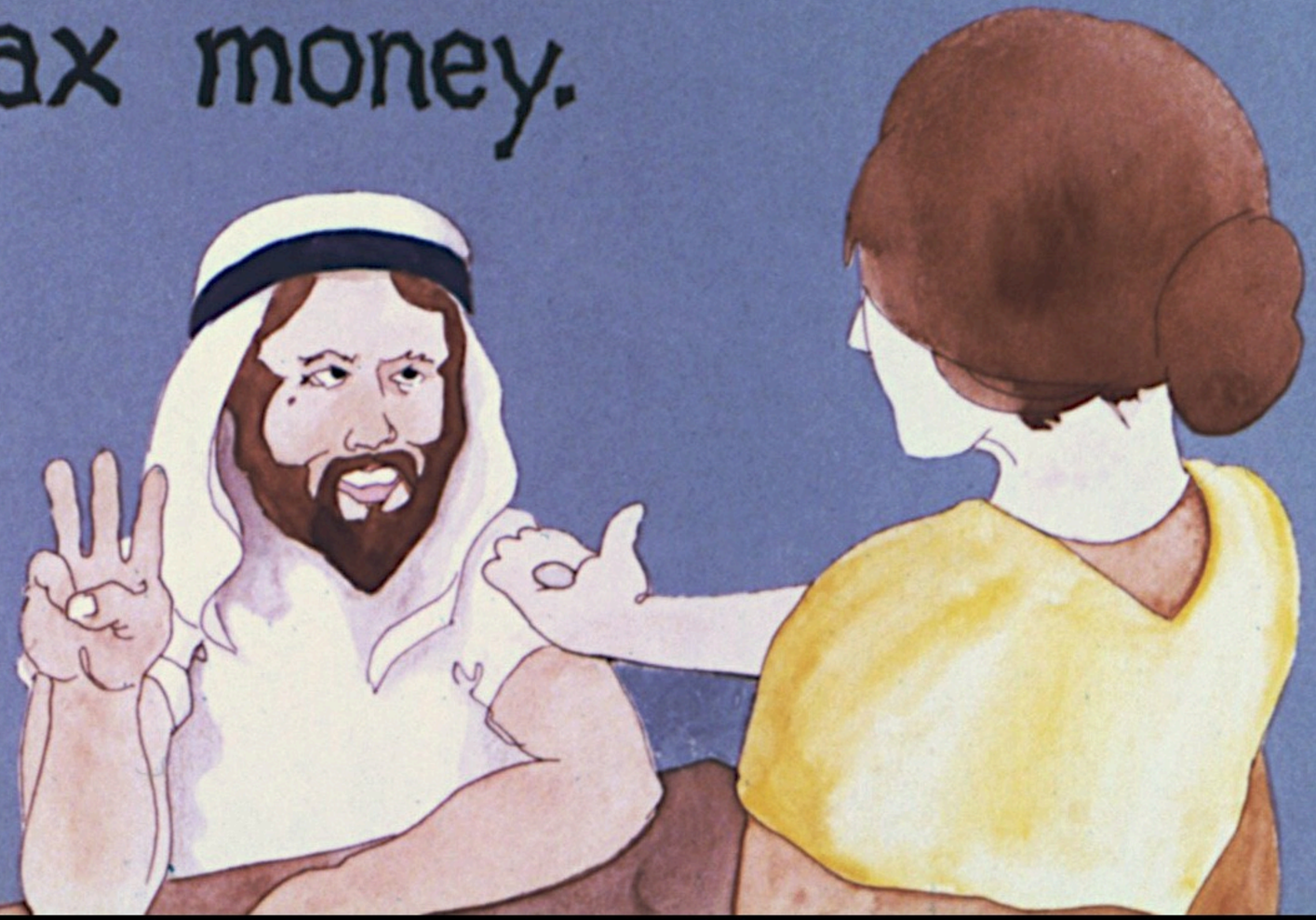

"You take the little money we have and put it in your own pocket"

"We grow poor
while you grow
rich."


Though
rich and
important
in his
own eyes,


in the eyes of the people
Zacchaeus remained
very small.

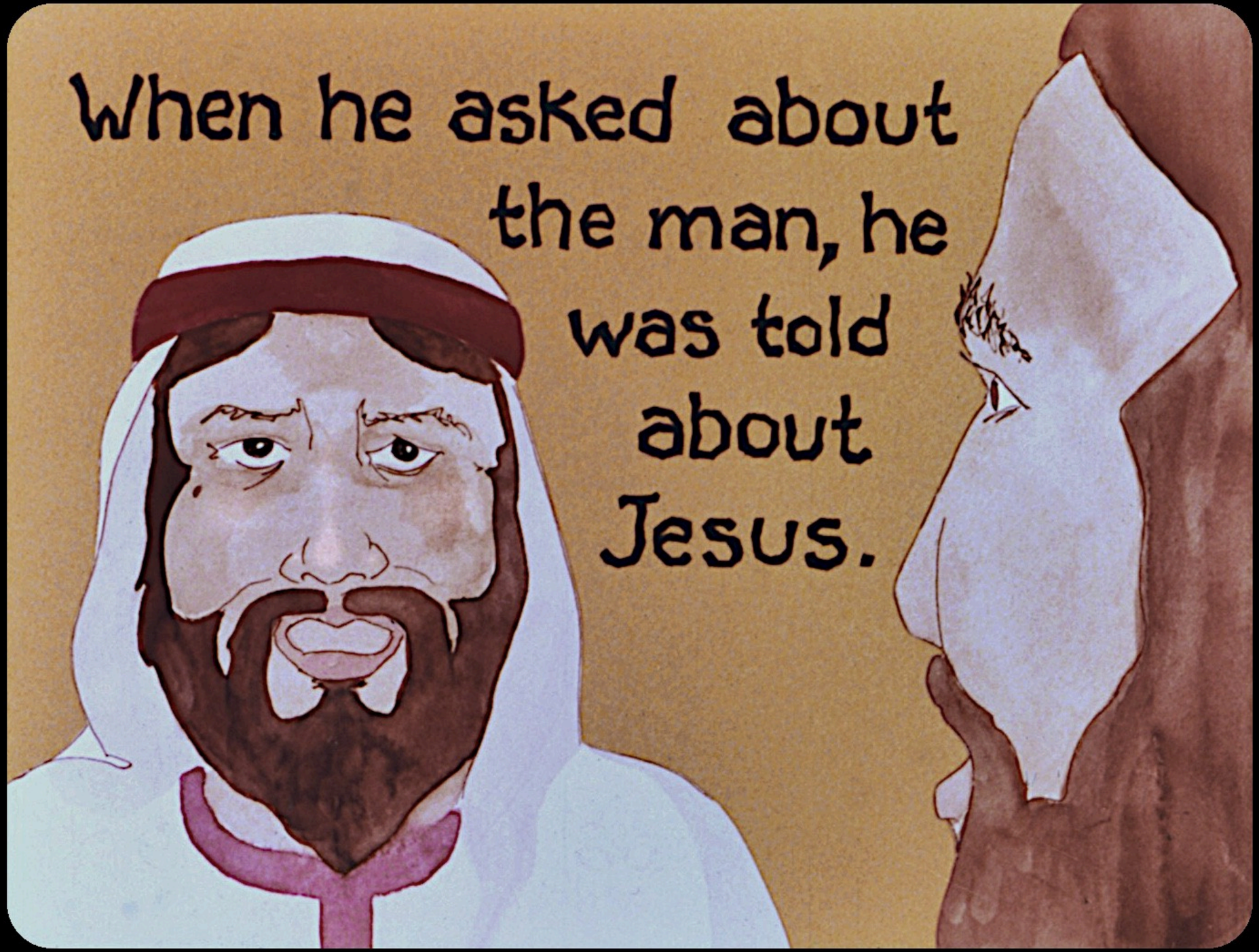
One day he was collecting tax money.

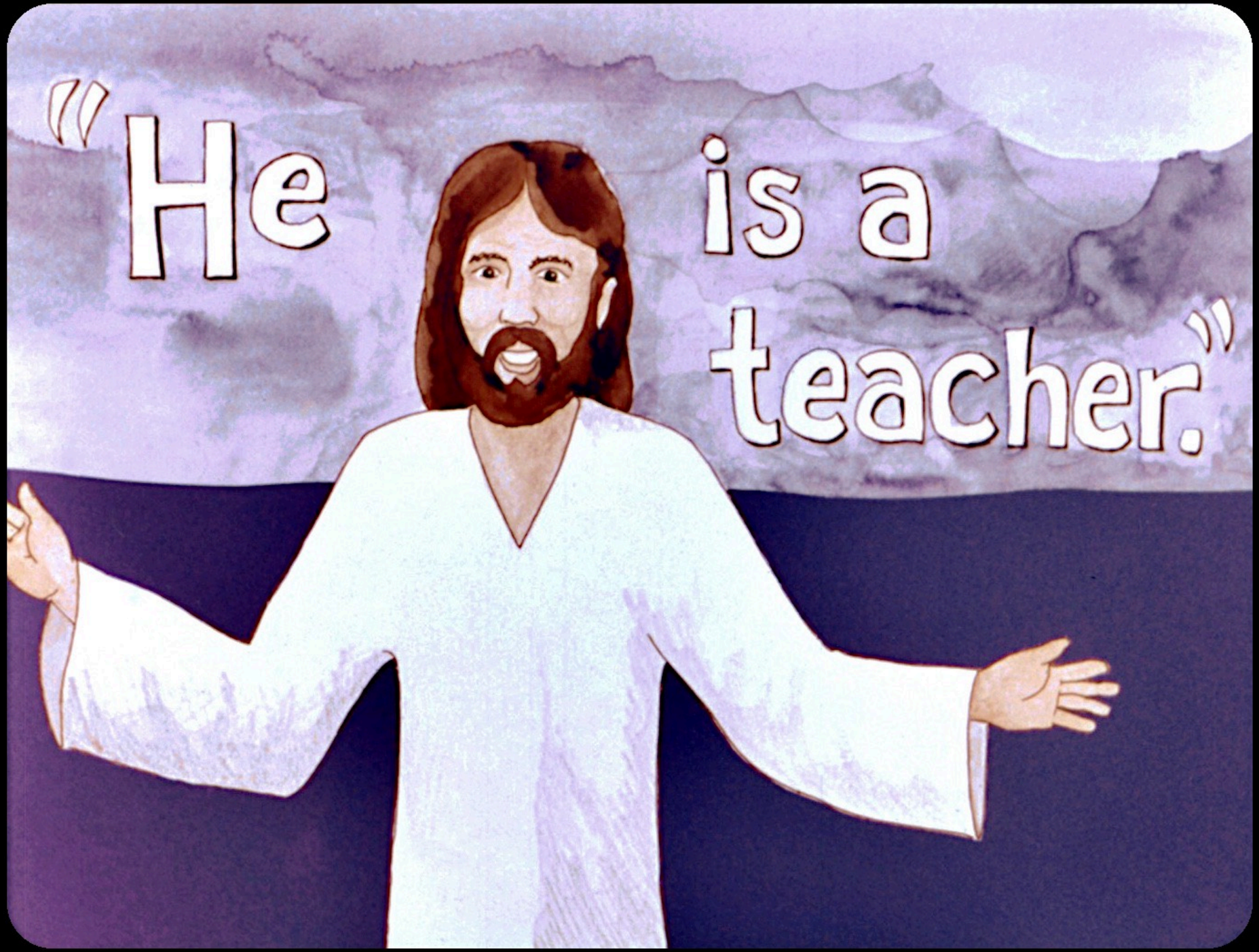


He heard people talking about a
man who was
doing
great
things -

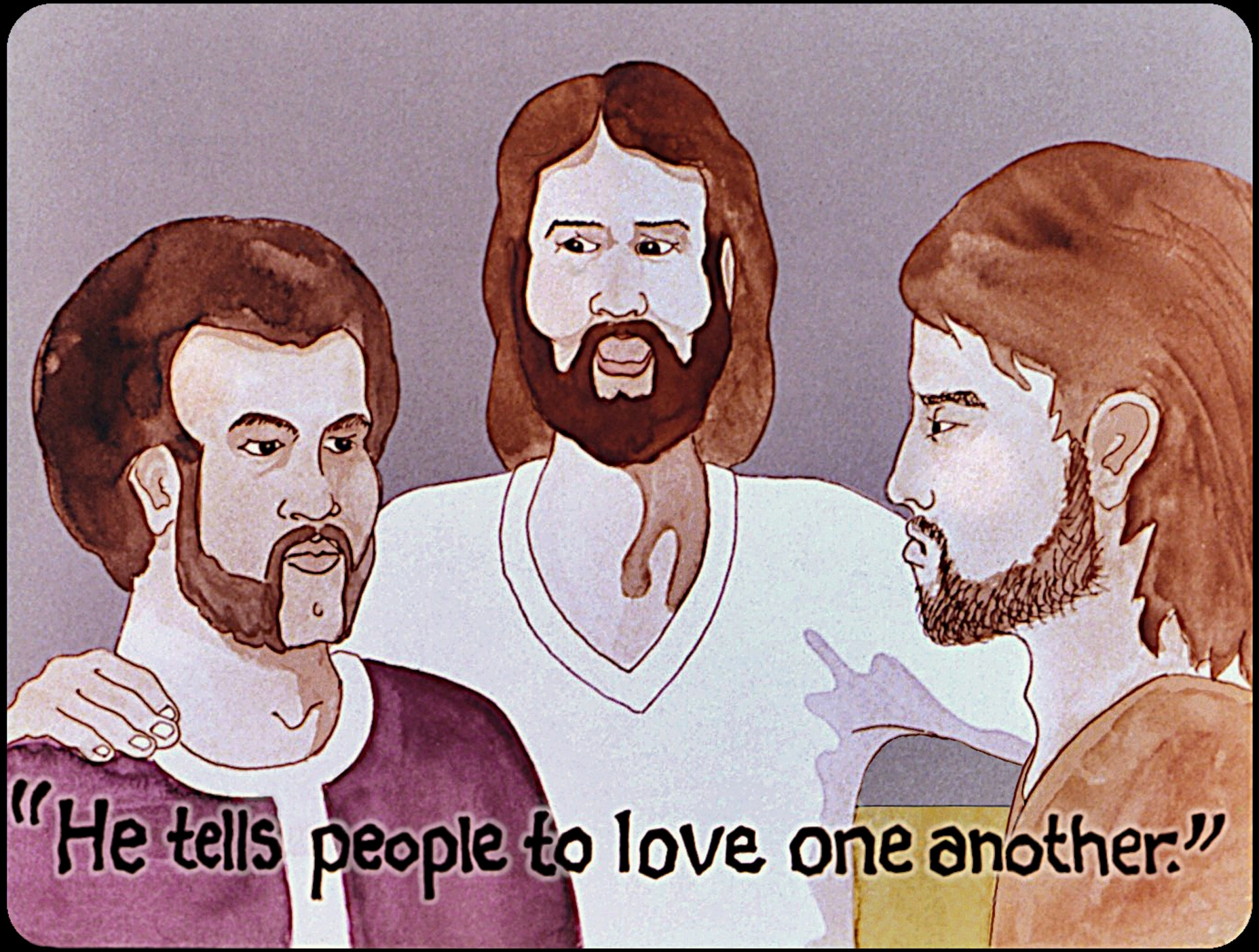
for those who were small

and poor.

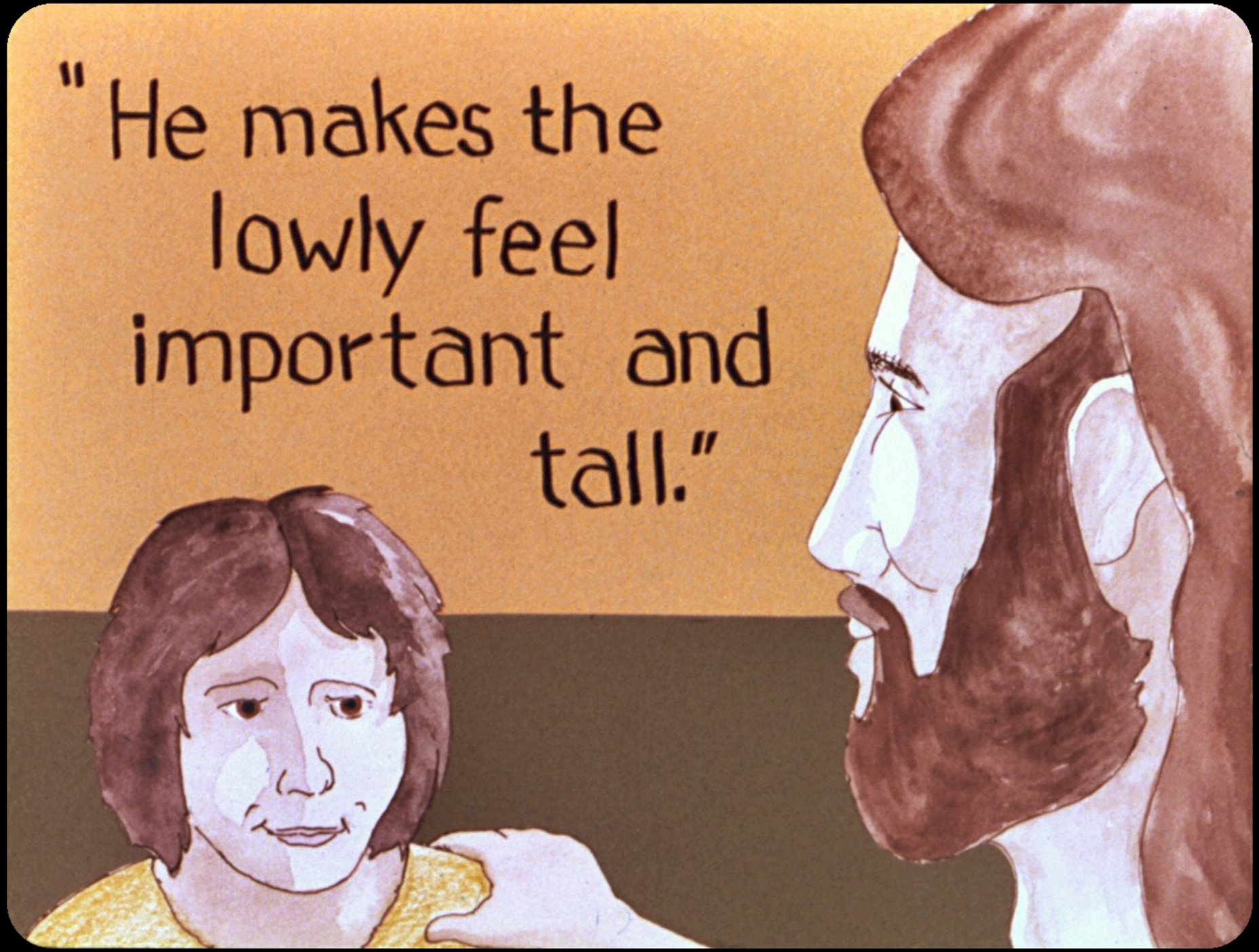

When he asked about
the man, he
was told
about
Jesus.

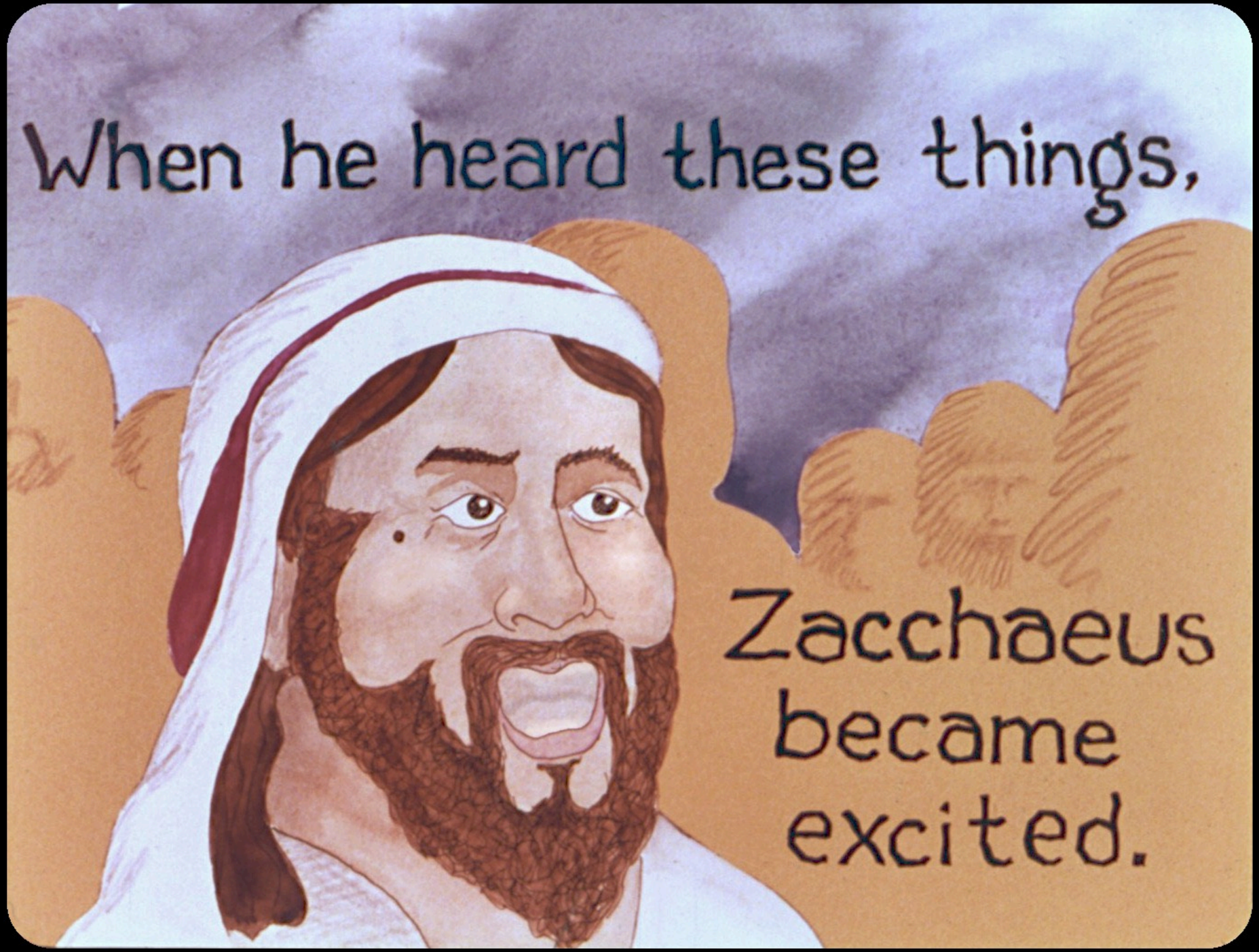

"He is a teacher."

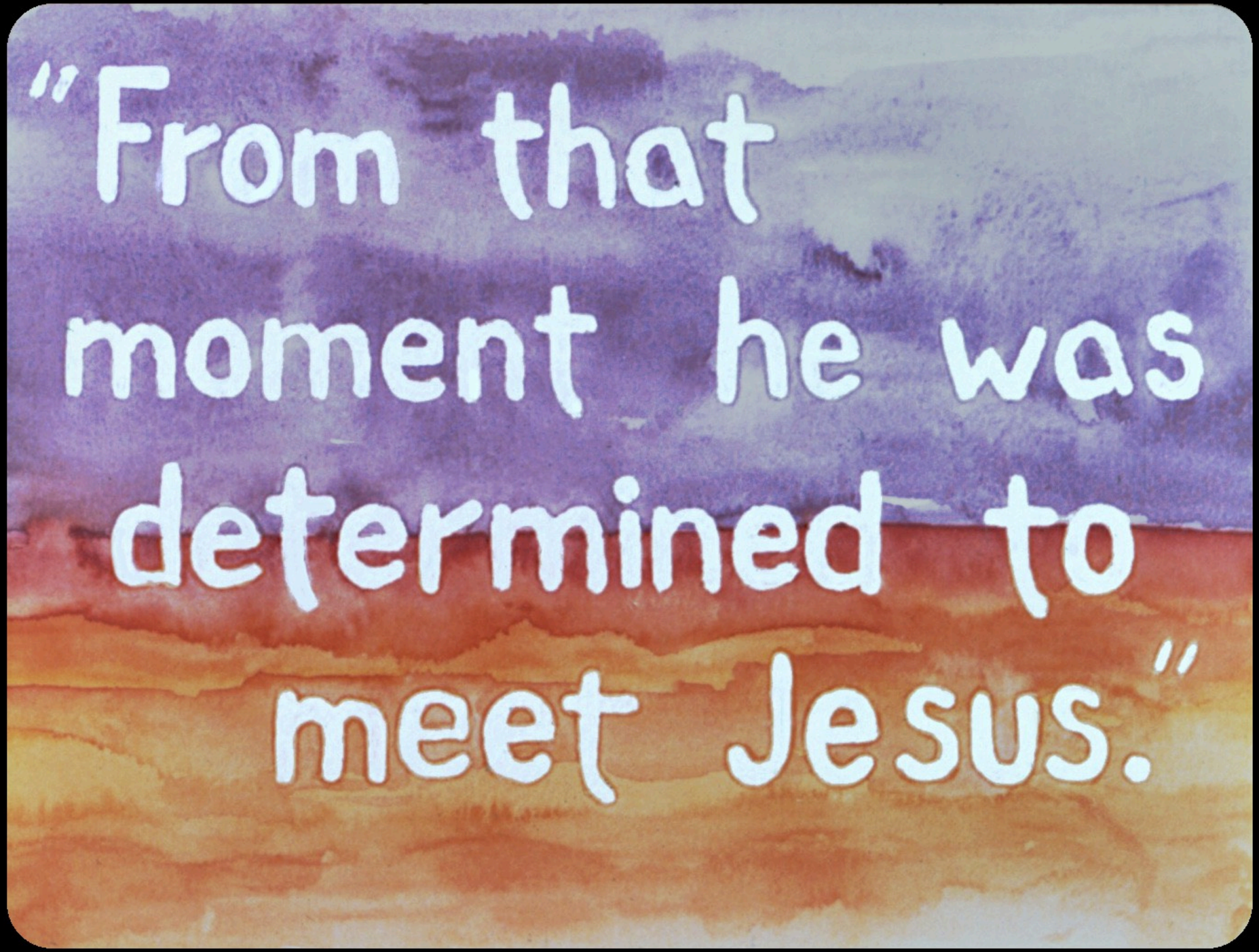
"He is a healer."

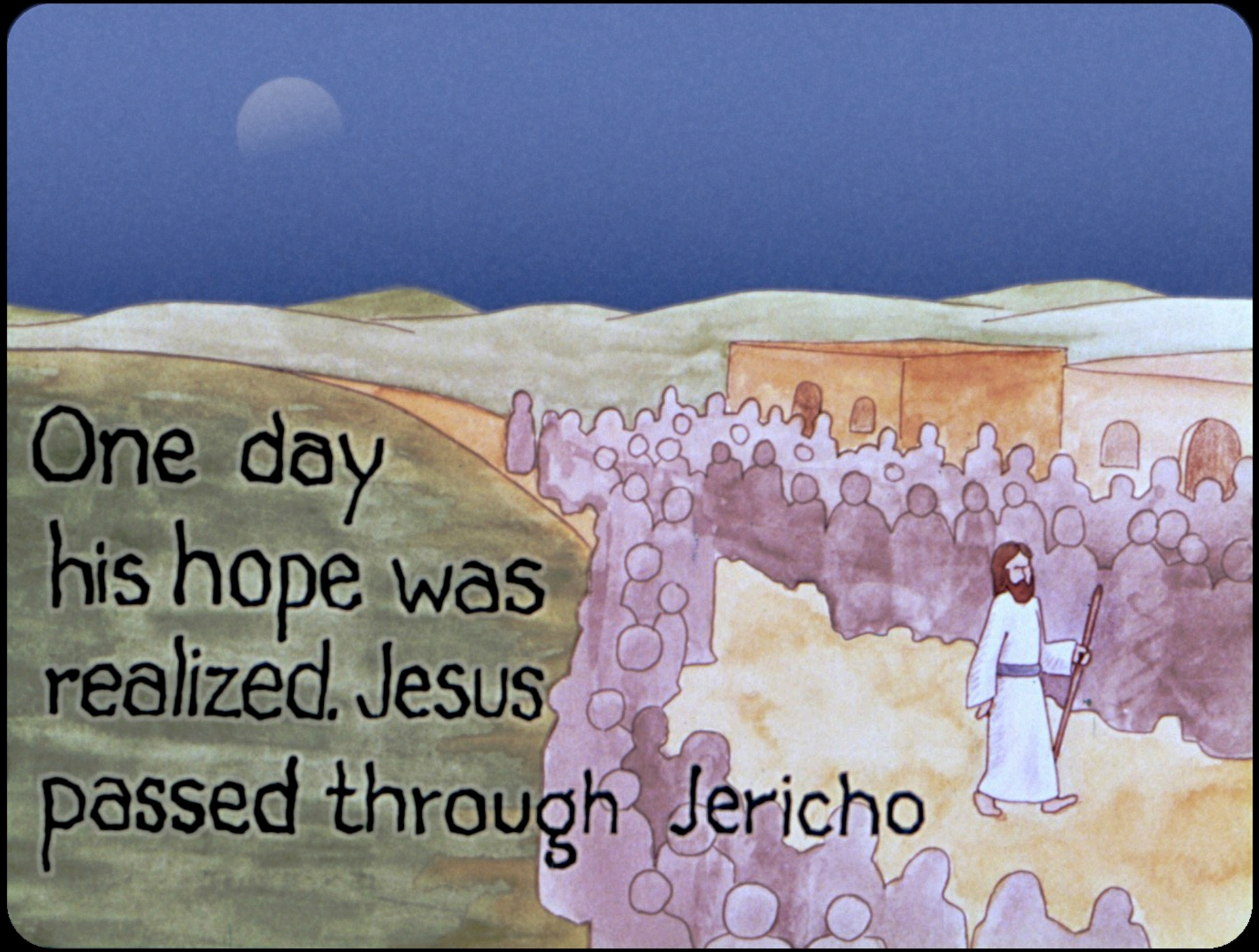

"He tells people to love one another."

"He tells stories
about the
Kingdom
of God"


"He makes the lowly feel important and tall."


When he heard these things,
Zacchaeus became excited.

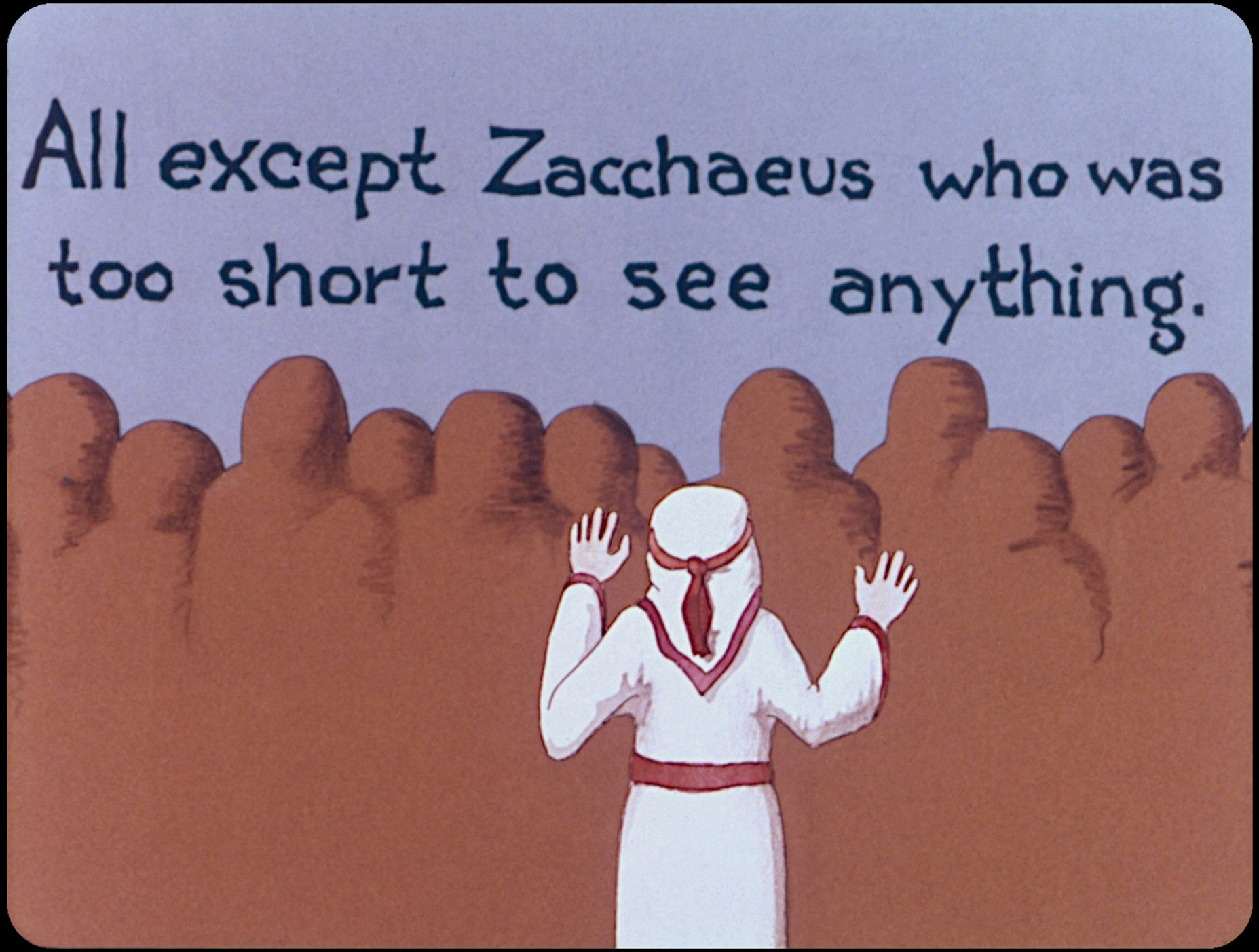

"From that
moment he was
determined to
meet Jesus."


One day
his hope was
realized. Jesus
passed through Jericho

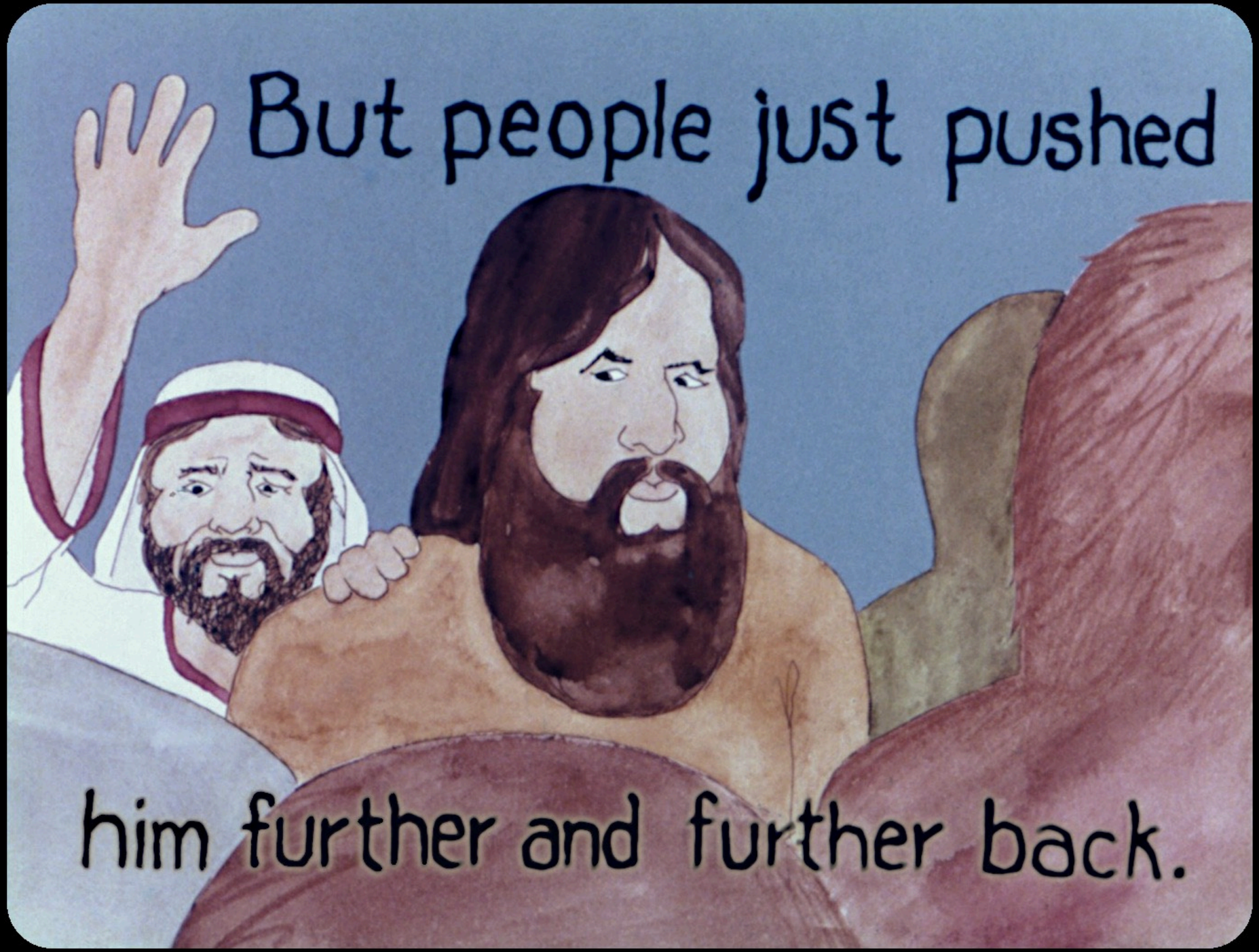
All the people

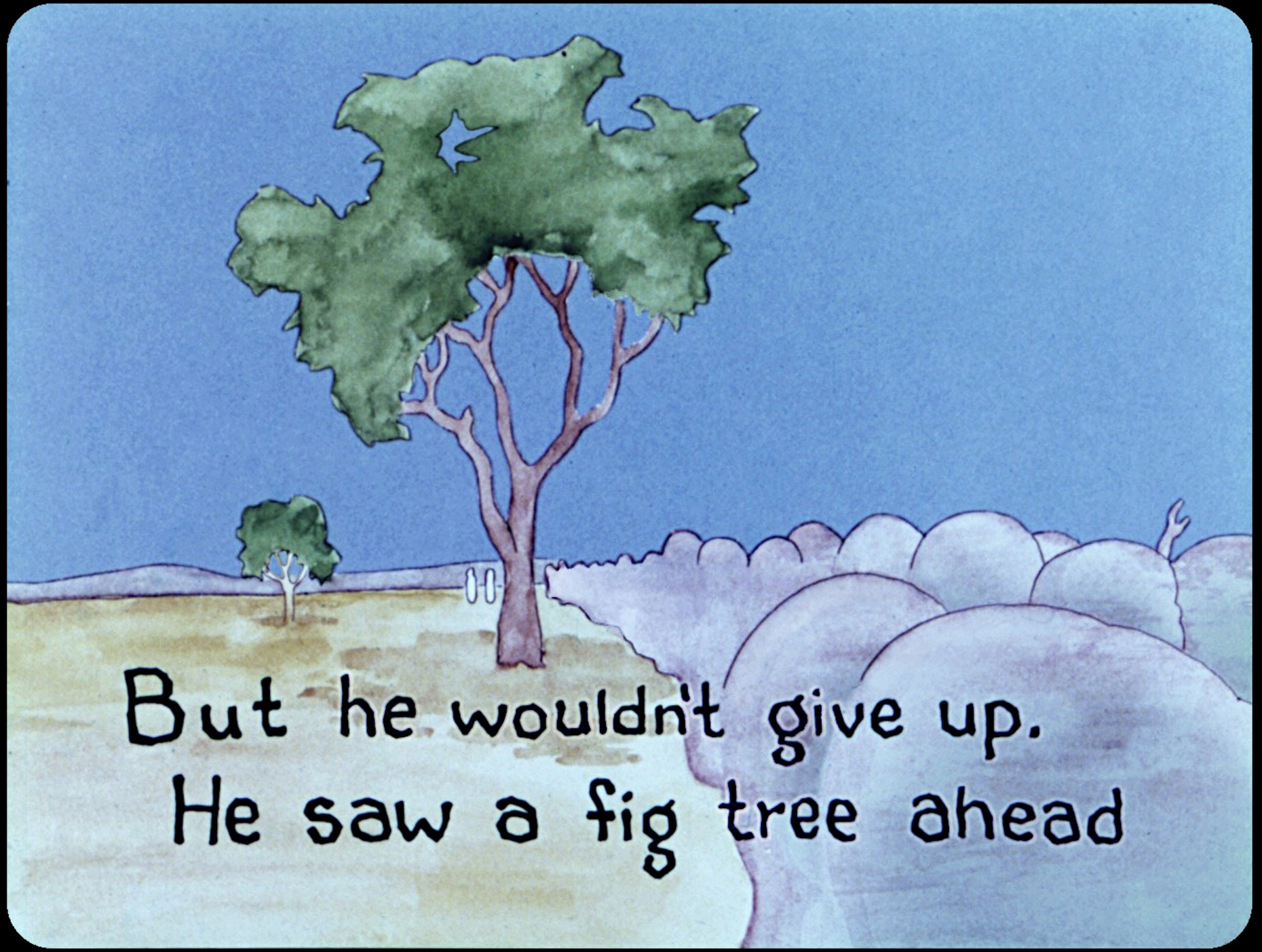
went out to

see him.

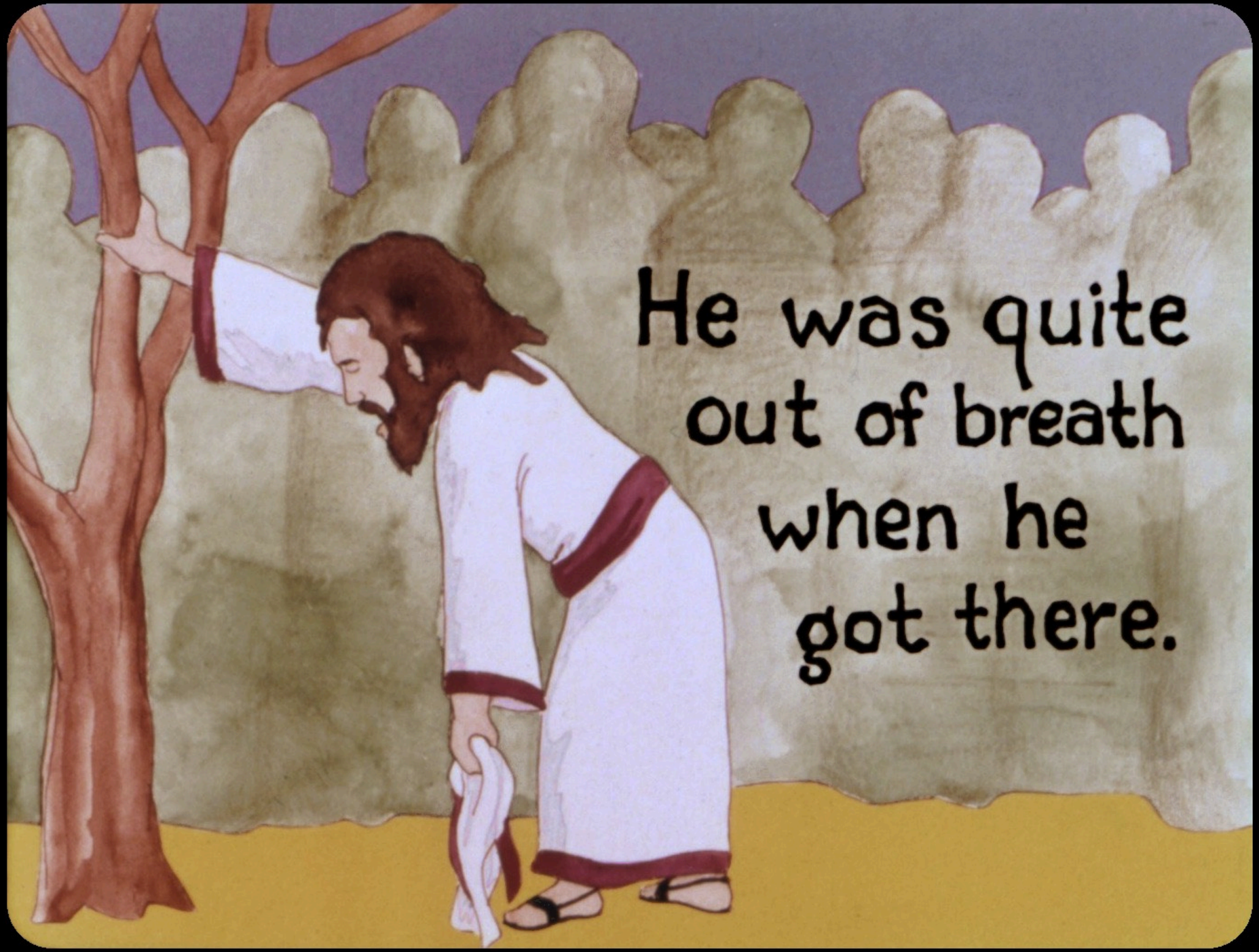

All except Zacchaeus who was too short to see anything.

Oh, he tried all right.
He really did.

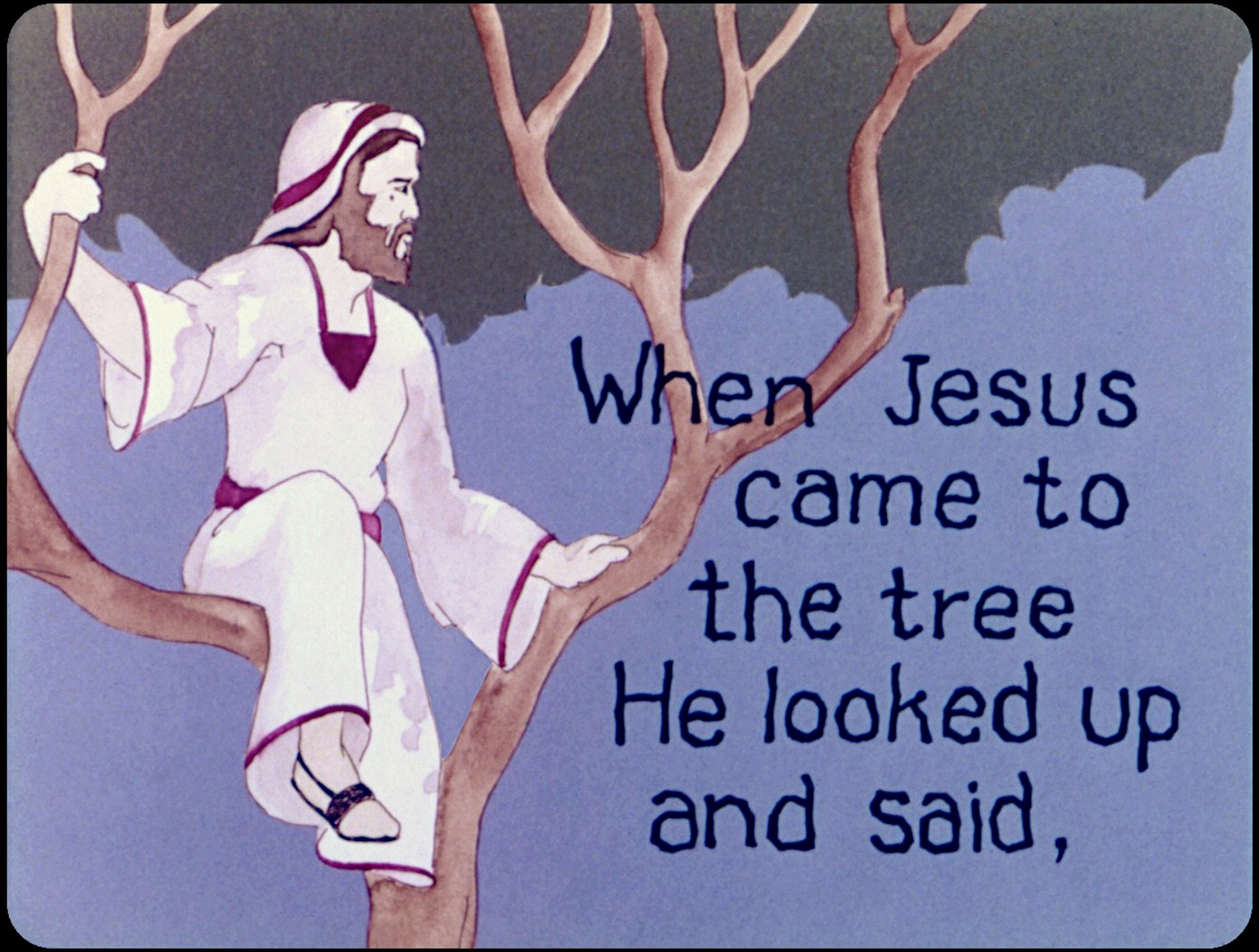

But people just pushed
him further and further back.

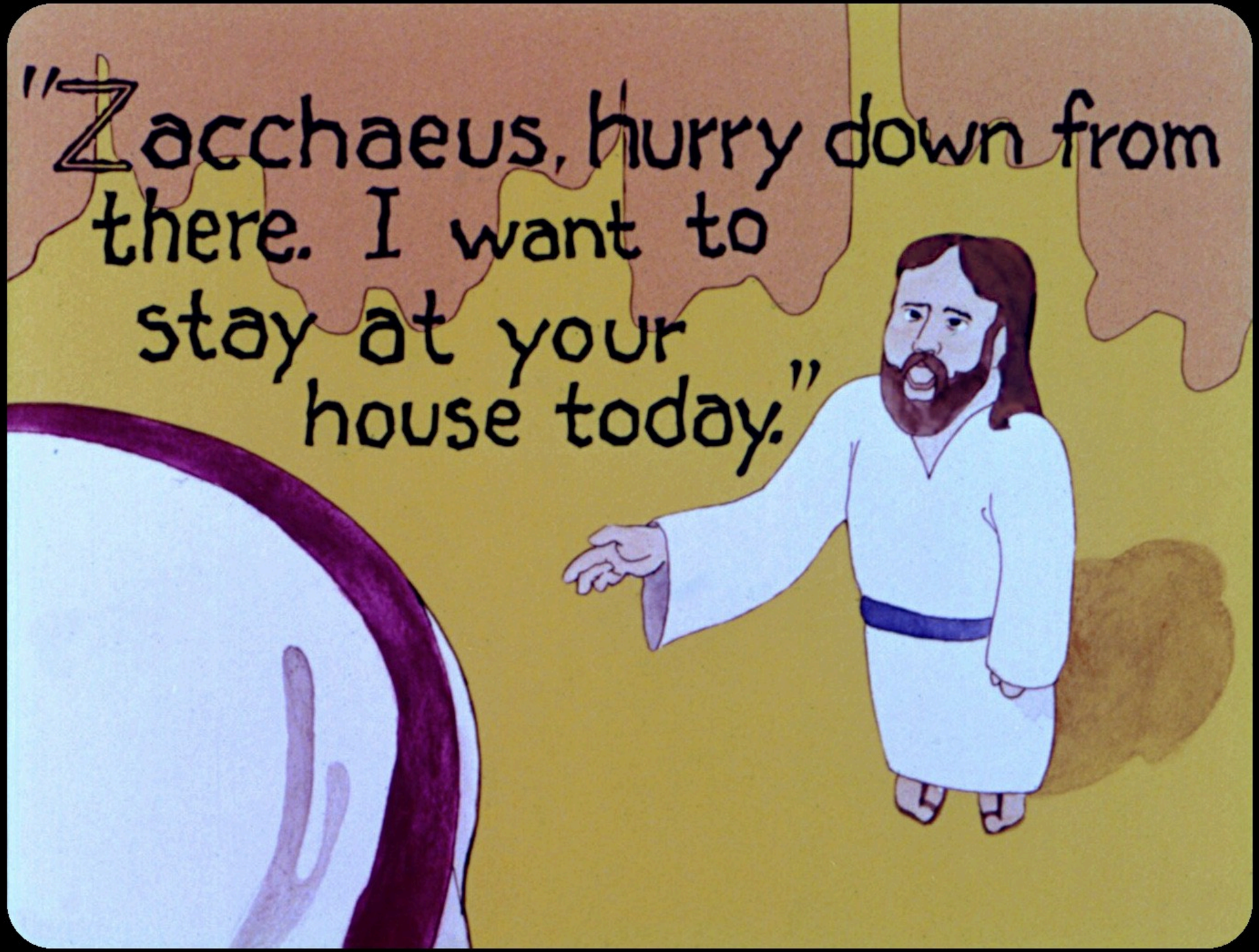

But he wouldn't give up.
He saw a fig tree ahead

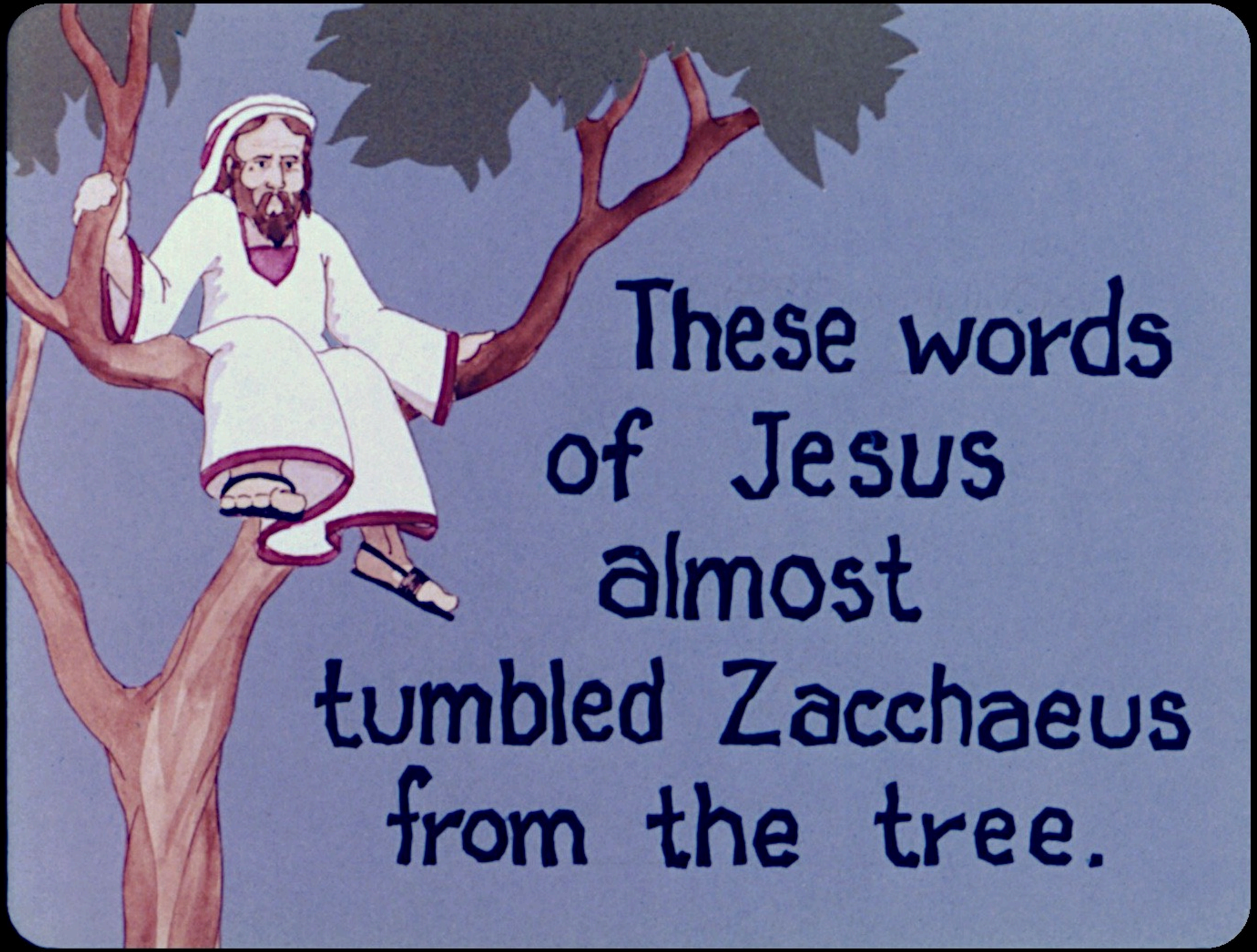
and his short
little legs carried
his short little
body to the tree.


He was quite
out of breath
when he
got there.

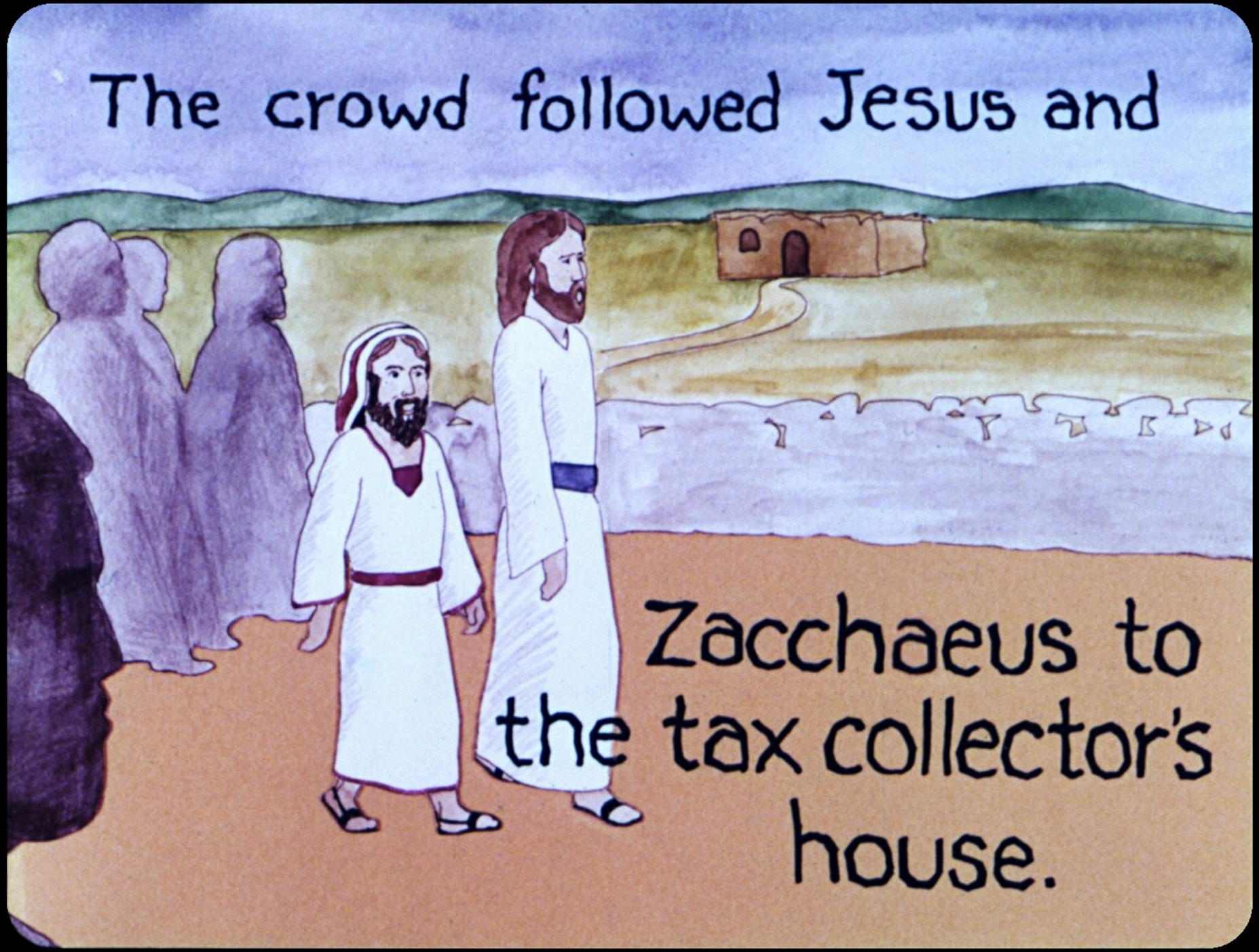
But he
climbed
the tree
and
waited
for Jesus

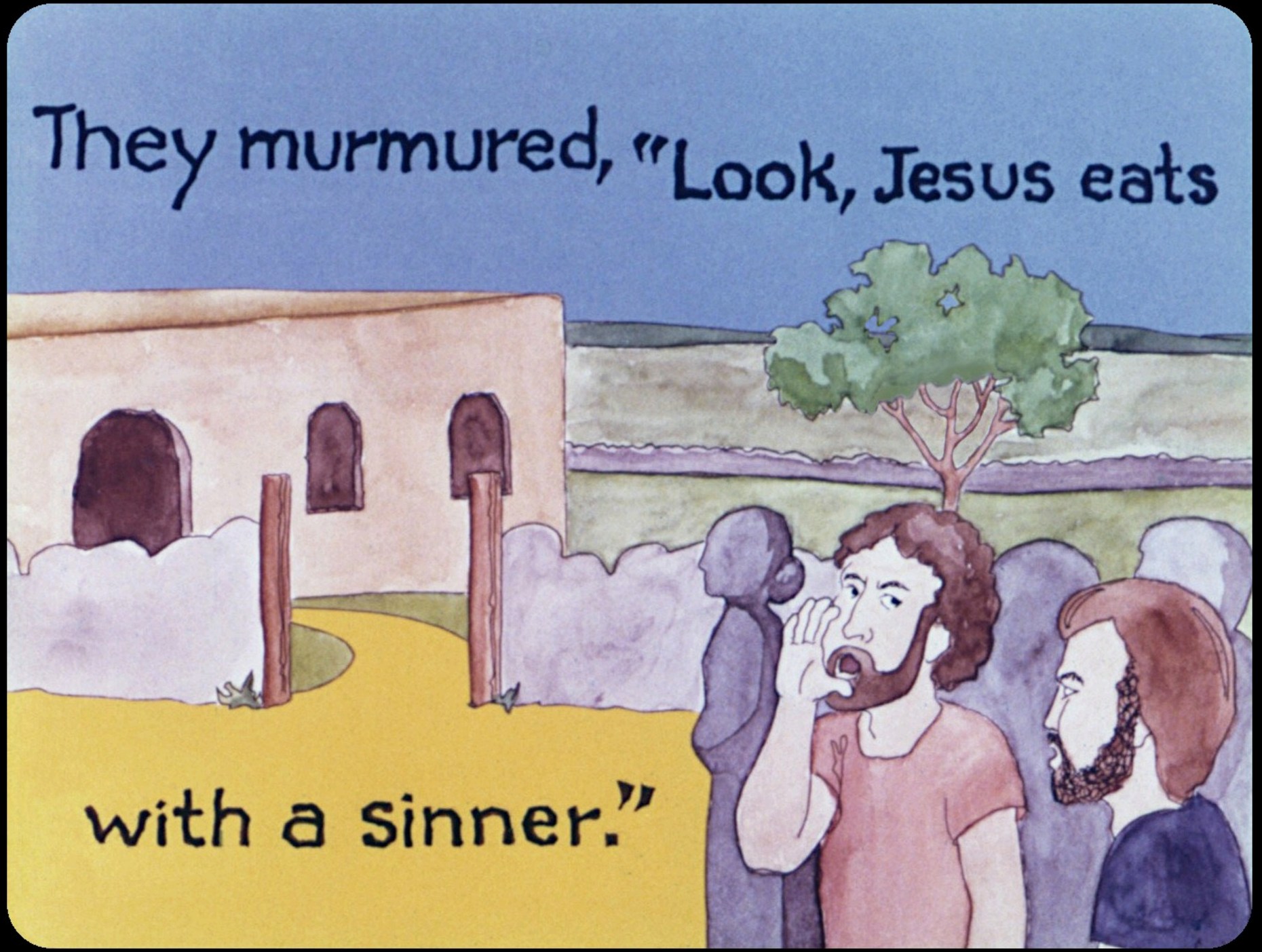

When Jesus
came to
the tree
He looked up
and said,

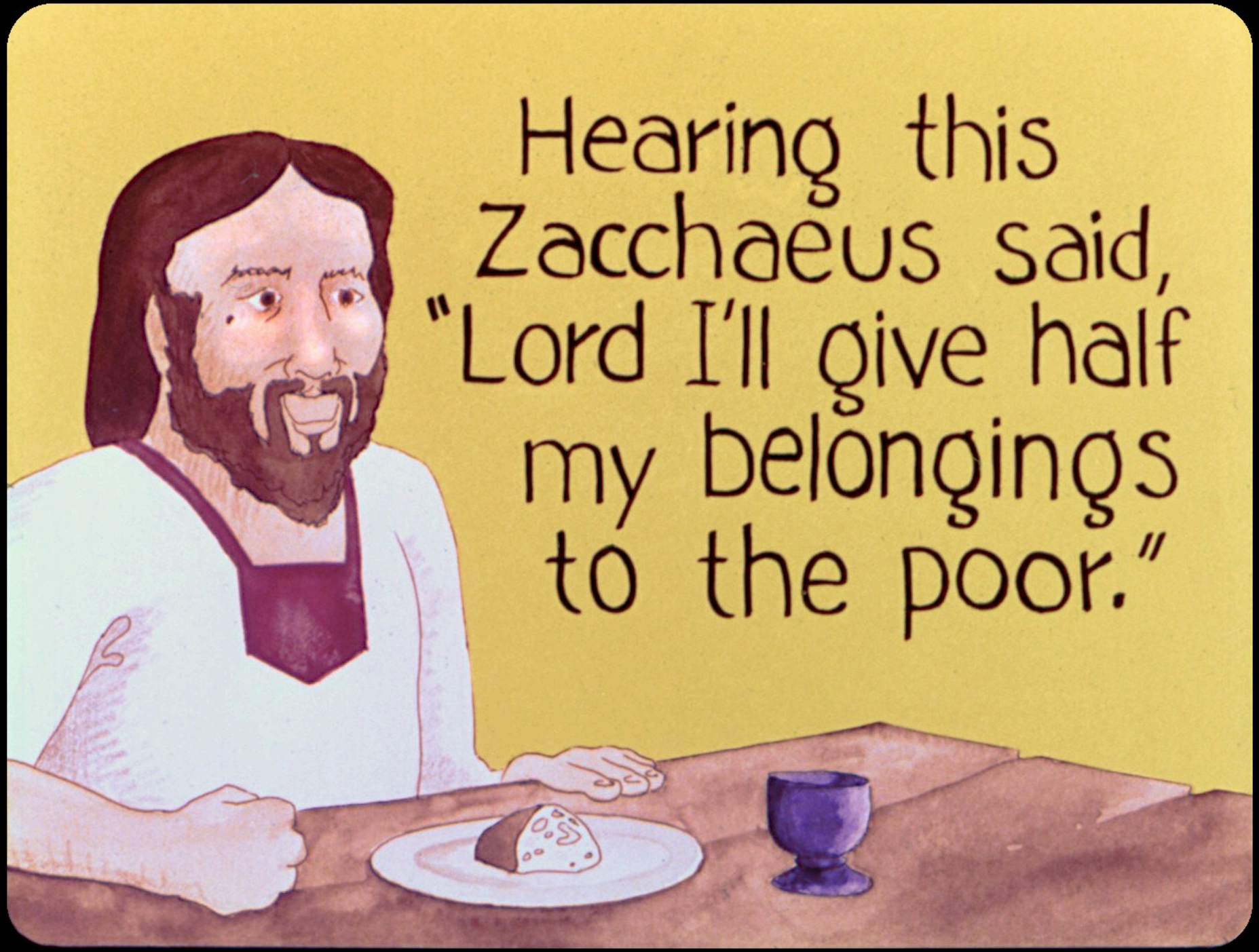

"Zacchaeus, hurry down from there. I want to stay at your house today."

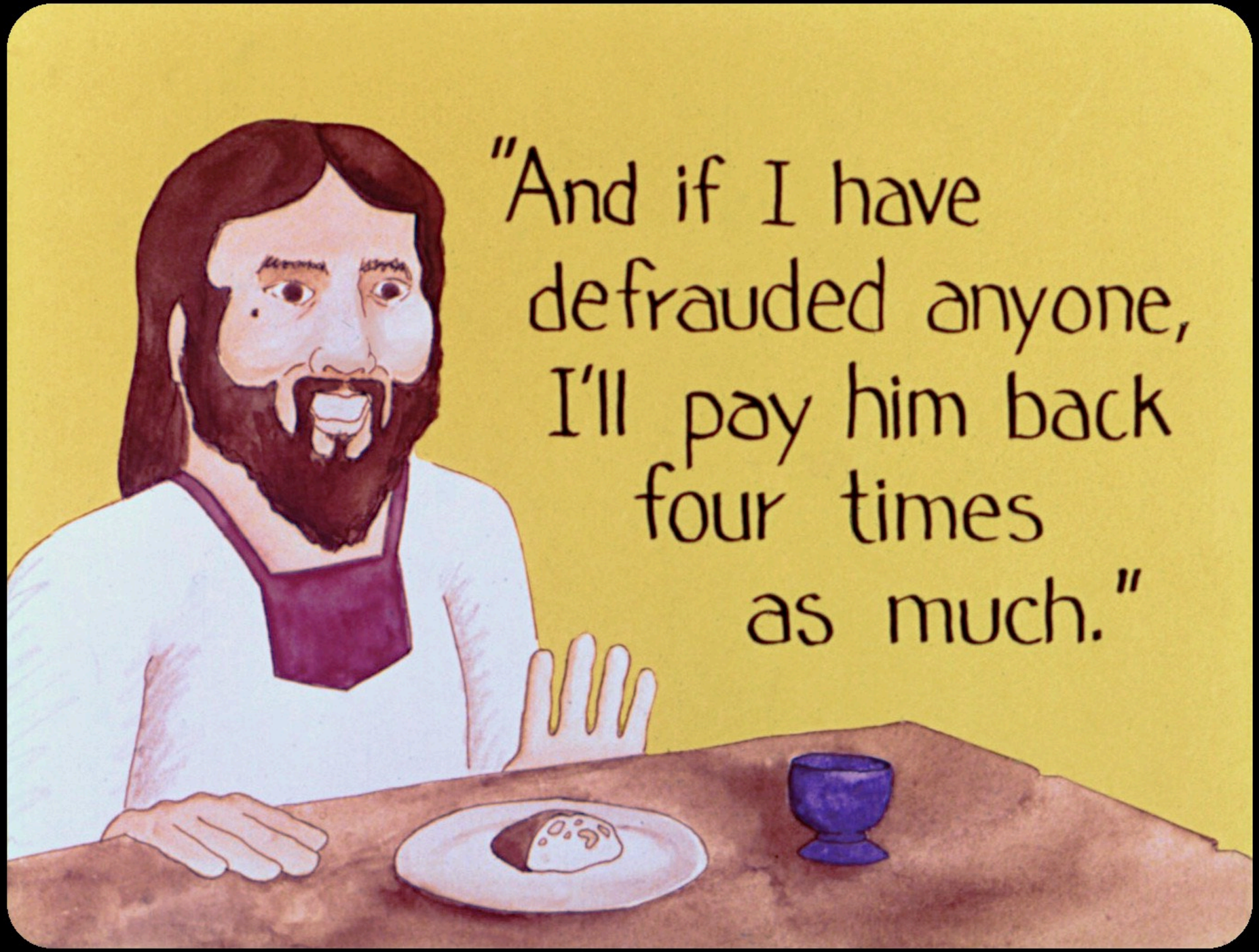

These words
of Jesus
almost
tumbled Zacchaeus
from the tree.

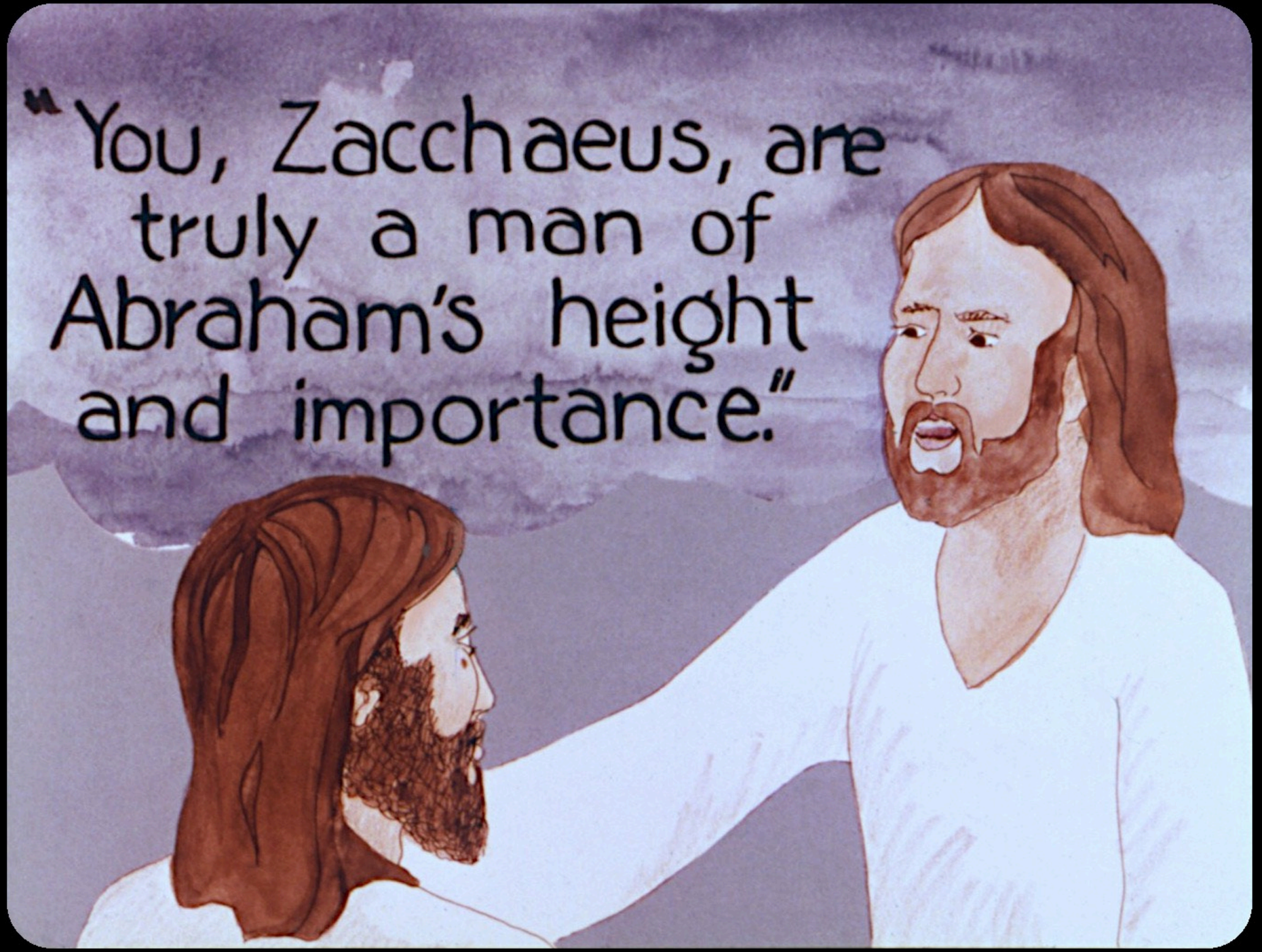
"At my house!
At my
House?"
he asked
excitedly.

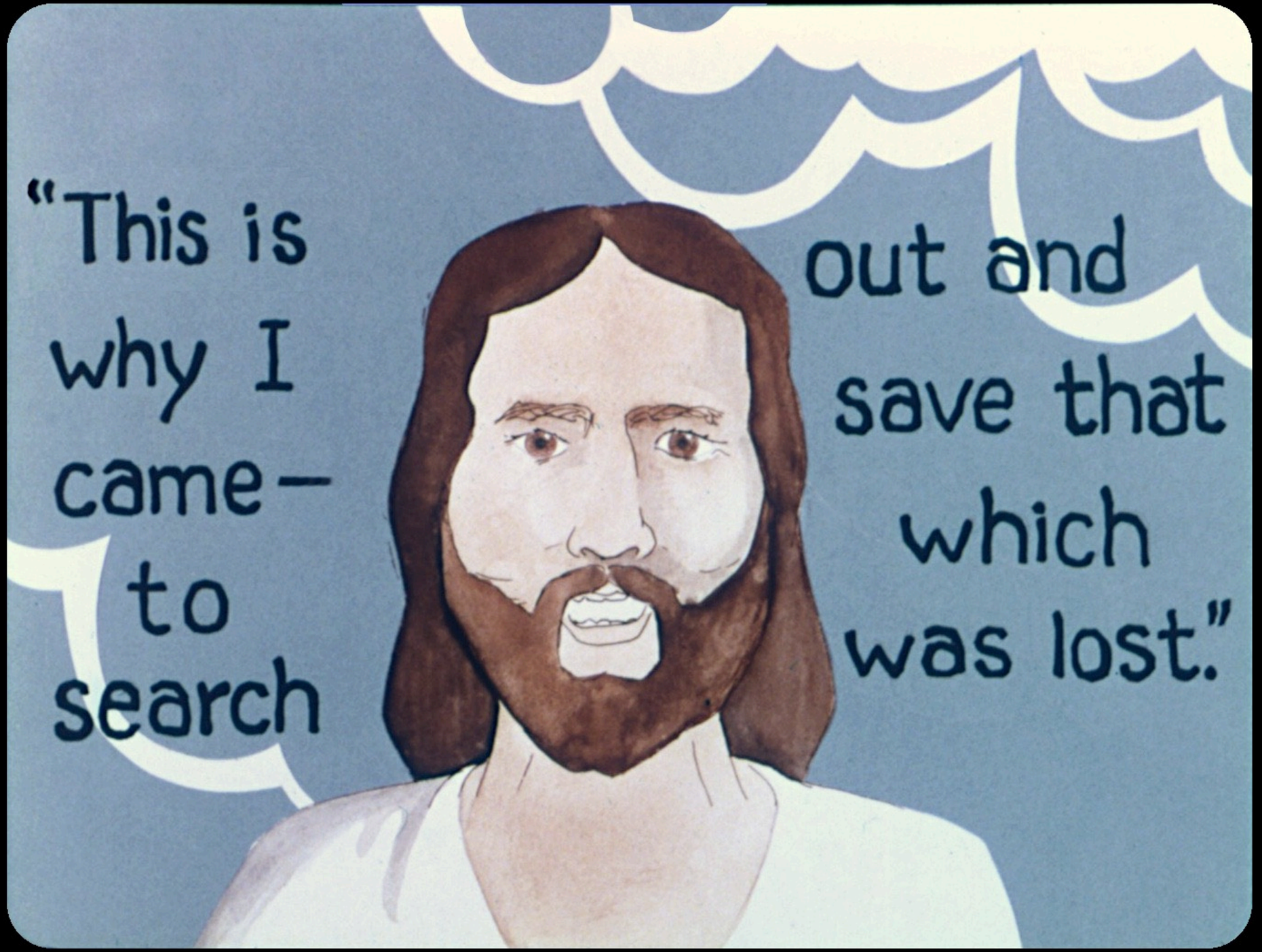

The crowd followed Jesus and
Zacchaeus to the tax collector's house.

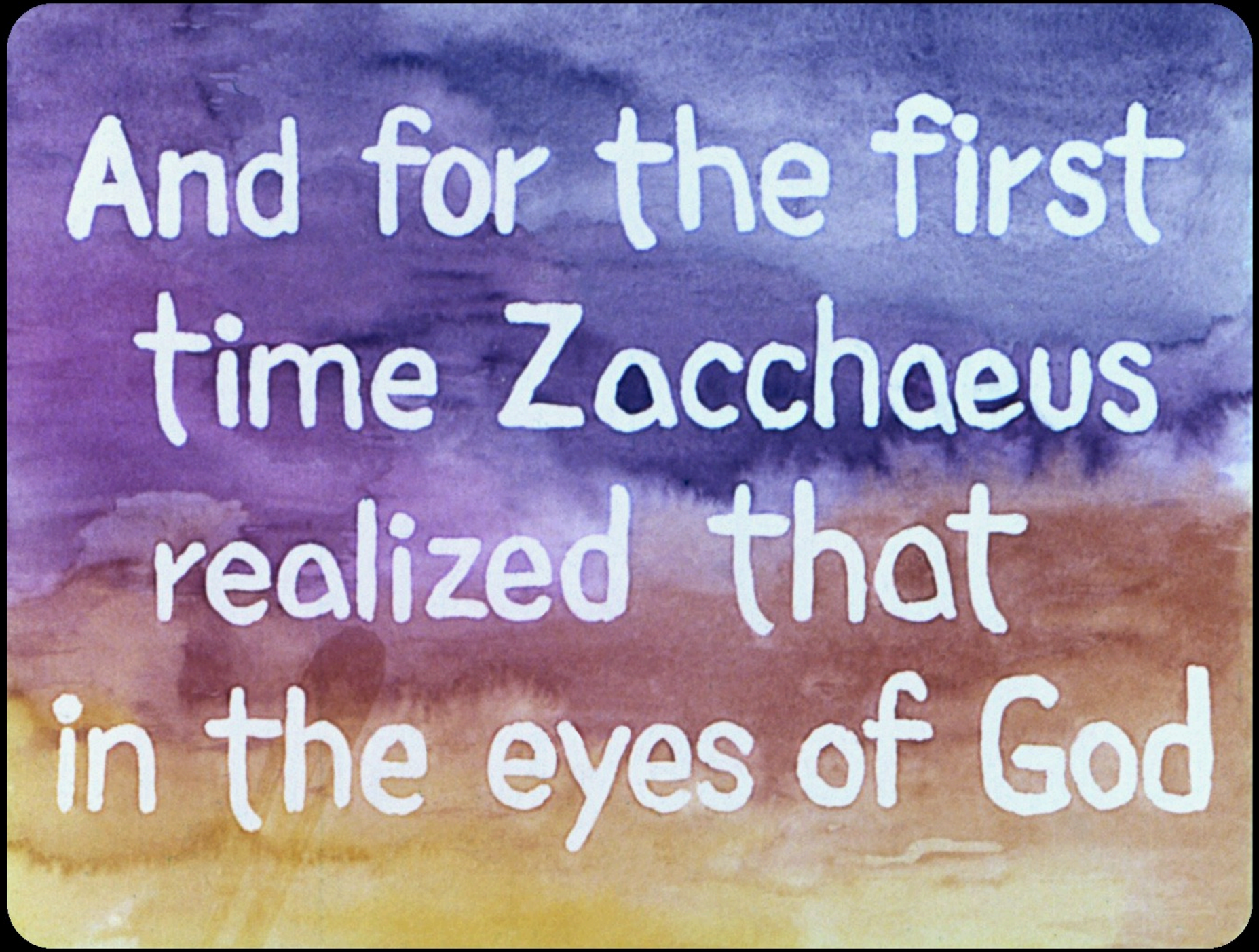

They murmured, "Look, Jesus eats
with a sinner."

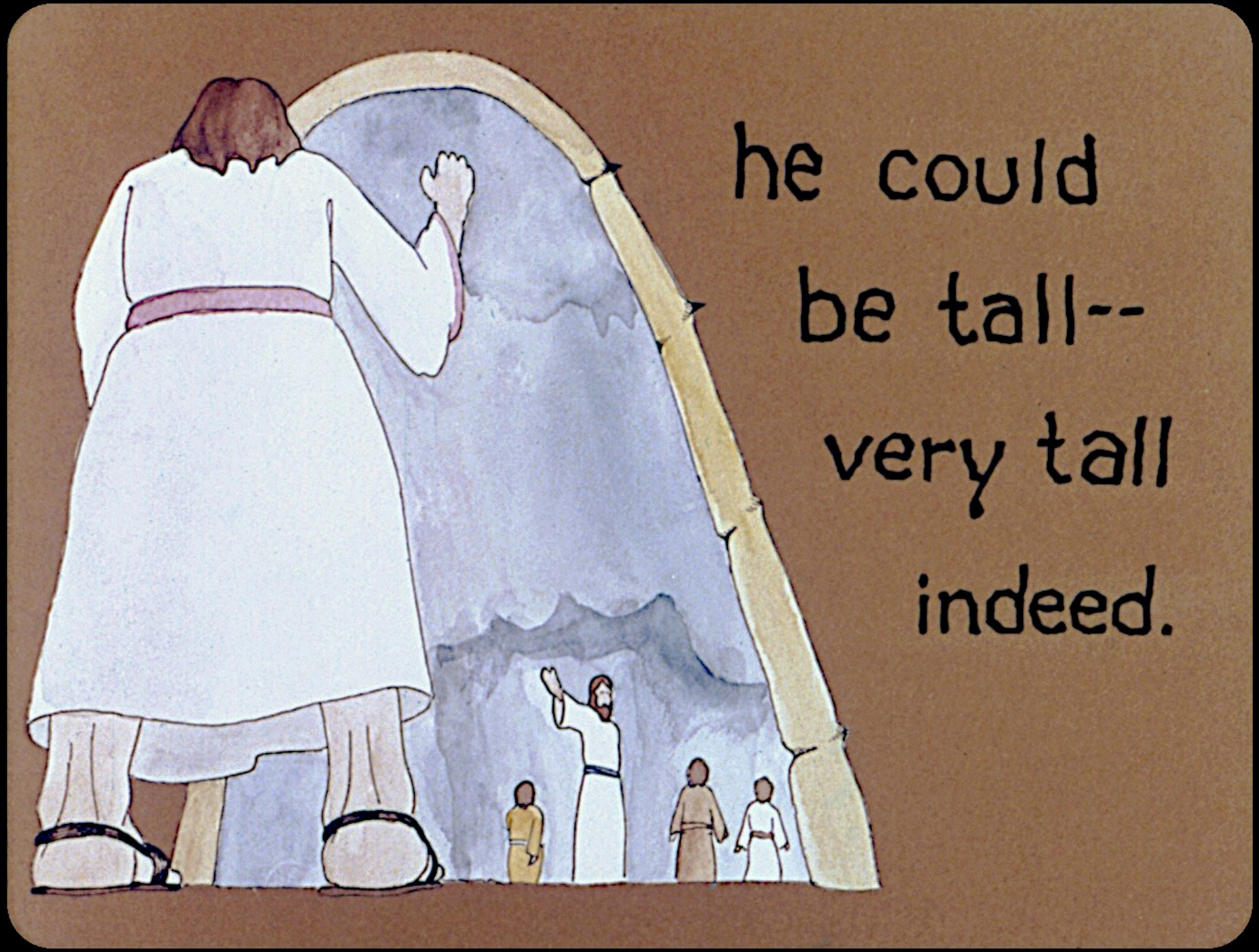

Hearing this
Zacchaeus said,
"Lord I'll give half
my belongings
to the poor."

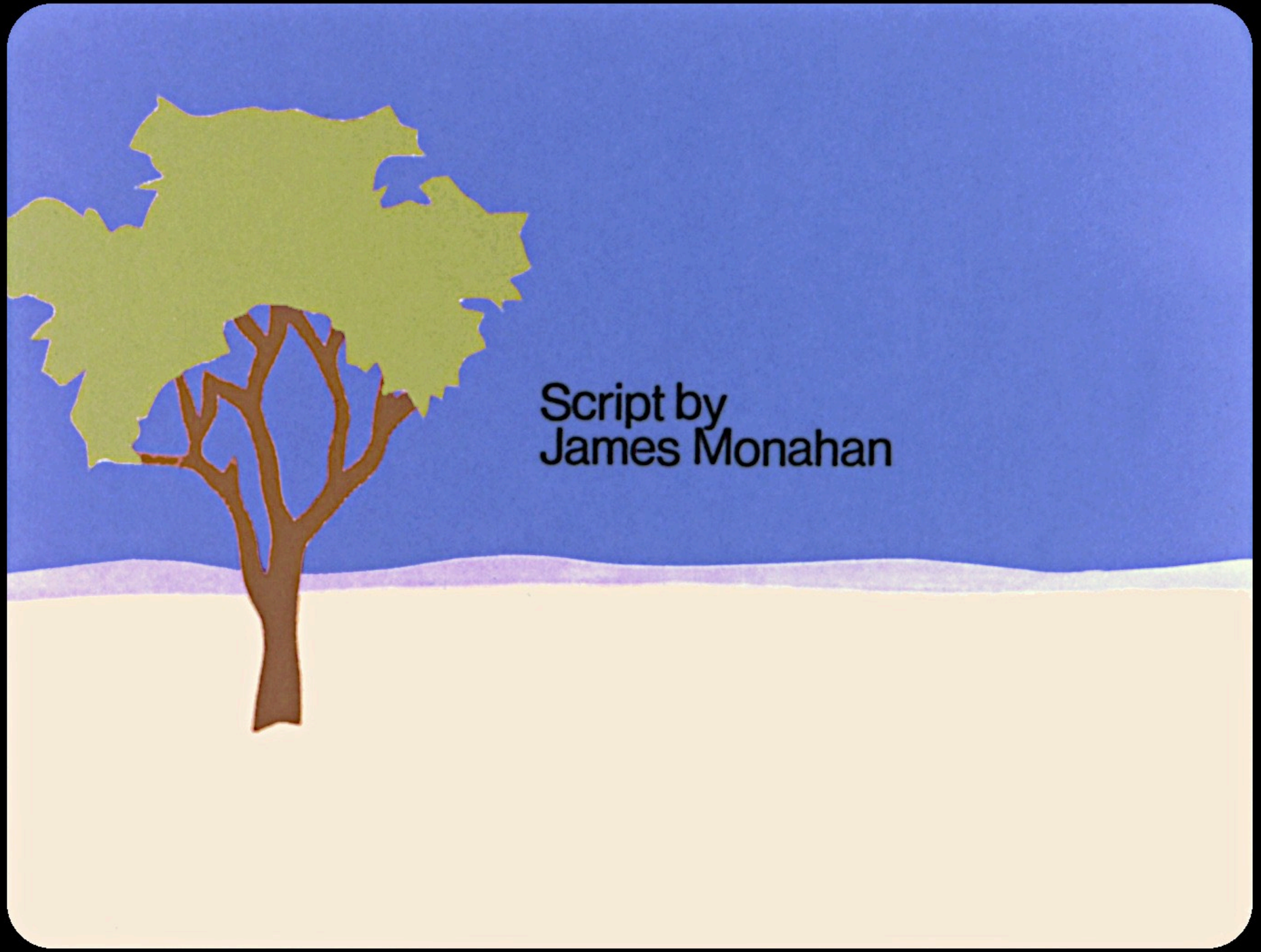

"And if I have
defrauded anyone,
I'll pay him back
four times
as much."


"You, Zacchaeus, are truly a man of Abraham's height and importance."


"This is why I came— to search
out and save that which was lost."


And for the first
time Zacchaeus
realized that
in the eyes of God


he could
be tall--
very tall
indeed.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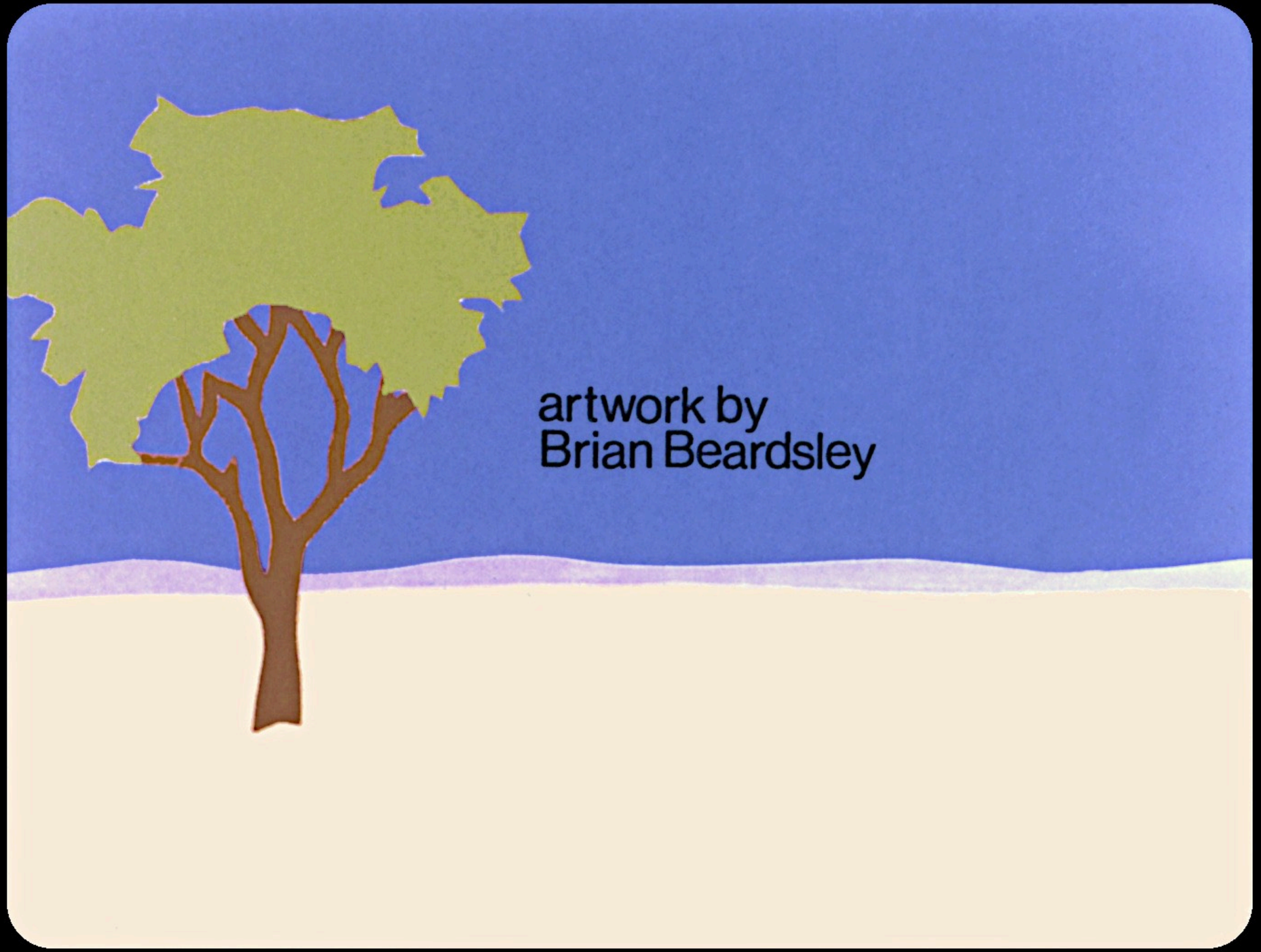
James Monahan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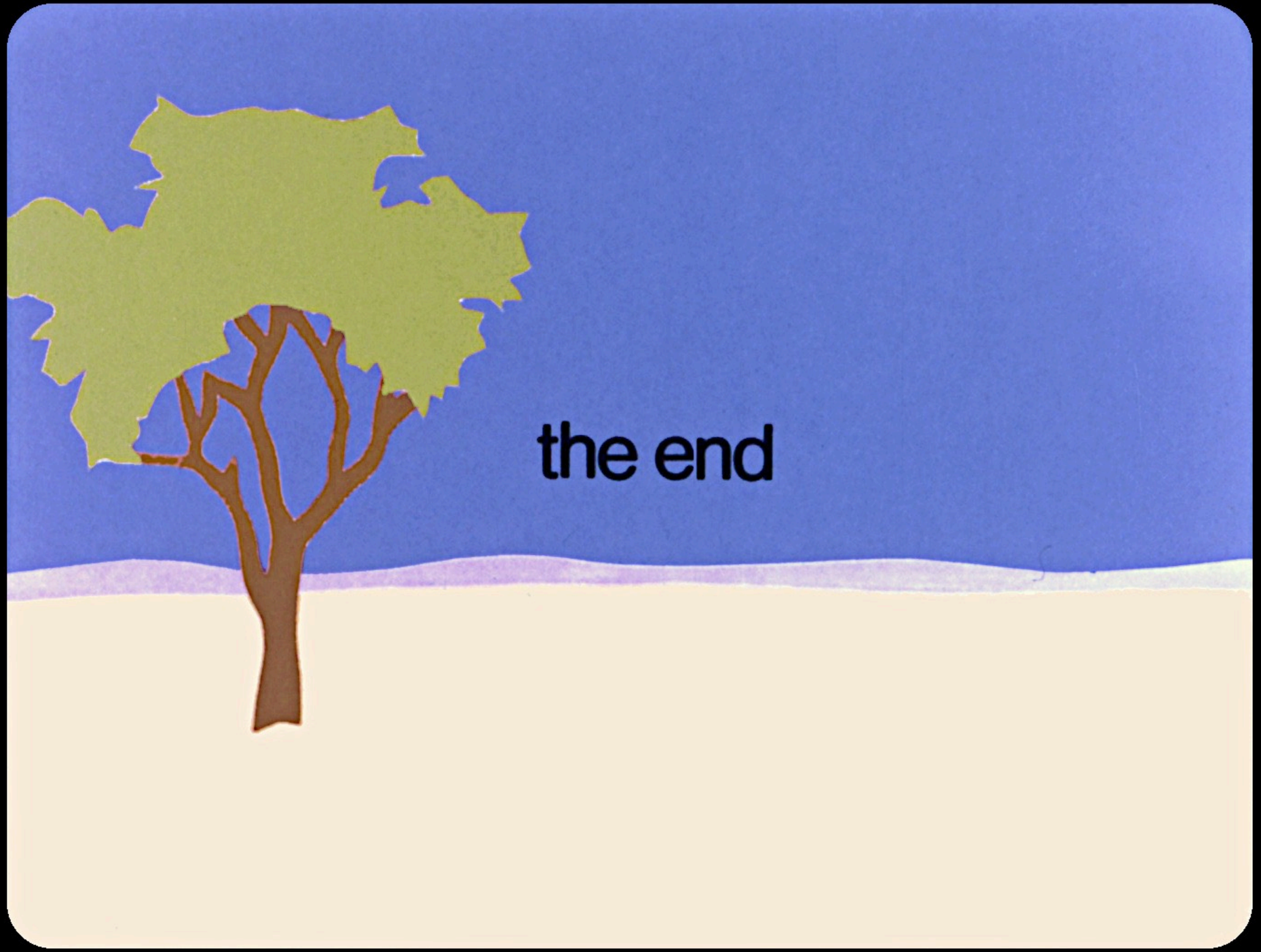
the end